



Formation Devotional

March 16, 2020 Morning

Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church

As you enter into his presence this morning, remember that God is with you and for you, because he loves you. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3)

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (BCP 57)

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us. And grant, O most merciful Father, for Jesus' sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and joyful life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and give thanks for his assurance of pardon through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

Praying the Psalms

Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in Christ.

Psalm 107

Book Five

Let the Redeemed of the LORD Say So

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble

³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

⁴Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;

⁵hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.

⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

⁹For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

¹⁰Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,

¹¹for they had rebelled against the words of God,

and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

¹²So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor;

they fell down, with none to help.

¹³Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,

and burst their bonds apart.

¹⁵Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,

for his wondrous works to the children of man!

¹⁶For he shatters the doors of bronze

and cuts in two the bars of iron.

¹⁷Some were fools through their sinful ways,

and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food,

and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰He sent out his word and healed them,

and delivered them from their destruction.

²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,

for his wondrous works to the children of man!

²²And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,

and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

²³Some went down to the sea in ships,

doing business on the great waters;

²⁴ they saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.

²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.

²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;

²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.

²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁹ He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

³¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

³² Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

³³ He turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,

³⁴ a fruitful land into a salty waste,
because of the evil of its inhabitants.

³⁵ He turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.

³⁶ And there he lets the hungry dwell,

and they establish a city to live in;
³⁷they sow fields and plant vineyards
and get a fruitful yield.
³⁸By his blessing they multiply greatly,
and he does not let their livestock diminish.
³⁹When they are diminished and brought low
through oppression, evil, and sorrow,
⁴⁰he pours contempt on princes
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;
⁴¹but he raises up the needy out of affliction
and makes their families like flocks.
⁴²The upright see it and are glad,
and all wickedness shuts its mouth.
⁴³Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;
let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

New Testament Reading

Luke was a Gentile (non-Jewish) physician who wrote for sophisticated non-Jewish readers. He records in great detail in order that Gentile readers would understand the universal appeal of the gospel. Luke also wrote the book of Acts.

Meditate on the passage, noting a few words or a phrase that stood out or a promise to meditate on today. Take them to God in prayer.

Luke 10

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is

plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

¹³"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The Return of the Seventy-Two

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" ¹⁸And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus Rejoices in the Father's Will

²¹In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²²All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered,

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Martha and Mary

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Prayers of Intercession

Work

- Ask God to help you recognize the ways you look to your work to bring the comfort and significance that only the peace of Christ can. Confess the ways you fail to recognize God's sovereignty in times of discomfort.
- Pray that he would use times of uncertainty and discomfort in your workplace to realign your sense of calling and the purposes he has for you.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Wonder what your next step in spiritual formation is? Consider getting involved in a Growth Group.

For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit ccotc.org/devotional.