



# Formation Devotional

March 26, 2020 Evening

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

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*Take a moment to slow down and turn your thoughts to God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2)

## Opening Prayer

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 830)

## Prayer of Examine

Turn your attention to Christ who is present with you now. With him, review the ordinary events and emotions of your day with gratitude.

1. Where did you move with or feel close to Jesus today?
2. Where did you resist or feel far from Jesus today?
3. Where is Jesus leading you tomorrow? Ask for joy as you follow him.

## Praying the Psalms

*Prayerfully read the psalm back to God through faith in Jesus Christ.*

### Psalm 119:121-144

*Ayin*

<sup>121</sup> I have done what is just and right;

do not leave me to my oppressors.

<sup>122</sup> Give your servant a pledge of good;

let not the insolent oppress me.

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<sup>123</sup> My eyes long for your salvation

and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.

<sup>124</sup> Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,

and teach me your statutes.

<sup>125</sup> I am your servant; give me understanding,

that I may know your testimonies!

<sup>126</sup> It is time for the LORD to act,

for your law has been broken.

<sup>127</sup> Therefore I love your commandments

above gold, above fine gold.

<sup>128</sup> Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right;

I hate every false way.

*Pe*

<sup>129</sup> Your testimonies are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup> The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant,

because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your way with those who love your name.

<sup>133</sup> Keep steady my steps according to your promise,

and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> Redeem me from man's oppression,

that I may keep your precepts.

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<sup>135</sup> Make your face shine upon your servant,  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law.

*Tsadhe*

<sup>137</sup> Righteous are you, O LORD,  
and right are your rules.

<sup>138</sup> You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness  
and in all faithfulness.

<sup>139</sup> My zeal consumes me,  
because my foes forget your words.

<sup>140</sup> Your promise is well tried,  
and your servant loves it.

<sup>141</sup> I am small and despised,  
yet I do not forget your precepts.

<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is righteous forever,  
and your law is true.

<sup>143</sup> Trouble and anguish have found me out,  
but your commandments are my delight.

<sup>144</sup> Your testimonies are righteous forever;  
give me understanding that I may live.

## Old Testament Reading

Exodus tells the story of the enslavement of God's people by the Egyptians. God raises up a deliverer named Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but the Egyptians resist, and God answers with the ten plagues. Exodus also contains the Ten Commandments and instructions for a tent where God would meet His people. This was called the tent of Moses, or the tabernacle.

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*As you read and reflect on this passage, prayerfully consider how God might be revealing himself to you this evening.*

## **Exodus 12**

### **The Passover**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. <sup>15</sup>Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup>On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. <sup>17</sup>And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. <sup>18</sup>In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. <sup>19</sup>For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. <sup>20</sup>You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup>Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. <sup>23</sup>For the LORD will pass through

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to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. <sup>24</sup>You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. <sup>25</sup>And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup>And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' <sup>27</sup>you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

<sup>28</sup>Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

### **The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn**

<sup>29</sup>At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. <sup>30</sup>And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. <sup>31</sup>Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. <sup>32</sup>Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

### **The Exodus**

<sup>33</sup>The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." <sup>34</sup>So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup>The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. <sup>36</sup>And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup>And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. <sup>38</sup>A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. <sup>39</sup>And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

<sup>40</sup>The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup>At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup>It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

### **Institution of the Passover**

<sup>43</sup>And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, <sup>44</sup>but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. <sup>45</sup>No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. <sup>46</sup>It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the

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flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. <sup>47</sup>All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. <sup>48</sup>If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. <sup>49</sup>There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”

<sup>50</sup>All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. <sup>51</sup>And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Relationships

- Thank him for the rich and meaningful relationships Christians can have with one another because God first broke down the dividing wall of hostility and made us one.
- Thank him for all who faithfully walk with God, whether married or single, for a season or for a lifetime.
- Thank him for the opportunities at Christ Covenant that allow us to forge and cultivate friendships across the barriers that divide our society.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 816)

### Benediction

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

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