



# Formation Devotional

March 26, 2020 Morning

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

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*Rejoice and be glad, for your father invites you into his loving presence. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 829)

## Confession of Sin

Gracious Lord, we confess that we dishonor you in our words, thoughts and deeds. Depending on our strength, we stumble. Glorifying in our own righteousness, we reject you. Turning our faces from you, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for you to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards you. We pray these things in the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ. 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.*

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

## Praying the Psalms

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

## Psalm 119:97-120

*Mem*

<sup>97</sup>Oh how I love your law!

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It is my meditation all the day.

<sup>98</sup>Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.

<sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup>I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup>I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup>I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup>How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup>Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

*Nun*

<sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous rules.

<sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

<sup>108</sup>Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your rules.

<sup>109</sup>I hold my life in my hand continually,

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but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup>The wicked have laid a snare for me,

but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup>Your testimonies are my heritage forever,

for they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup>I incline my heart to perform your statutes

forever, to the end.

*Samekh*

<sup>113</sup>I hate the double-minded,

but I love your law.

<sup>114</sup>You are my hiding place and my shield;

I hope in your word.

<sup>115</sup>Depart from me, you evildoers,

that I may keep the commandments of my God.

<sup>116</sup>Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,

and let me not be put to shame in my hope!

<sup>117</sup>Hold me up, that I may be safe

and have regard for your statutes continually!

<sup>118</sup>You spurn all who go astray from your statutes,

for their cunning is in vain.

<sup>119</sup>All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross,

therefore I love your testimonies.

<sup>120</sup>My flesh trembles for fear of you,

and I am afraid of your judgments.

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## 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 19

#### Jesus and Zacchaeus

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup>And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

#### The Parable of the Ten Minas

<sup>11</sup>As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. <sup>12</sup>He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. <sup>13</sup>Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' <sup>14</sup>But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup>When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. <sup>16</sup>The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup>And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup>And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' <sup>20</sup>Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup>for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup>He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup>Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' <sup>24</sup>And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' <sup>25</sup>And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' <sup>26</sup>'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even

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what he has will be taken away. <sup>27</sup>But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

### **The Triumphal Entry**

<sup>28</sup>And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup>And they said, "The Lord has need of it." <sup>35</sup>And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup>And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup>He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

### **Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem**

<sup>41</sup>And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup>and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

### **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

<sup>45</sup>And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, <sup>46</sup>saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

<sup>47</sup>And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, <sup>48</sup>but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

#### **Relationships**

- Pray for healthy relationships between men and women at Christ Covenant and that deep friendships and marriages would be formed. - especially in this time of isolation.
- Pray that Christians would not over or under value any one marital status. That we would celebrate our different giftedness and consider both marriage and singleness as God-ordained capacities for love and service to others.

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- Pray that Christ Covenant would be a place where friendships across differences are cultivated (across gender, race, class, political and religious lines, etc.)

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)

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*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](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*