



**“Good vs Evil”**  
**Sunday, May 24, 2020 9:00AM**  
**Worship Service**

**INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.*

**C** **How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!**

**P** *He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.*

**C** **He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.**

**P** *Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

**C** **For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.**

**P** *God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne.*

**C** **The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** *In his letter to the Ephesians Paul writes, “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

**P** *O God, You have reminded us in Your Word that the battle against the devil and his demonic forces are real. You have shown us the damage the devil can do as we look back to the events which took place in the Garden of Eden. But we confess that we are still ignorant.*

**C** **We pretend there is no spiritual war raging around us or fighting within us.**

**P** *We are blind to the strategies of our enemy.*

**C** **We are smug in our sins and callous to your call to be alert.**

**P** *Like our first parents in Eden, our lives testify to defiance and pride.*

**C** **We eat the forbidden fruit.**

**P** *Then we blame others for our pain and loss.*

**C** **And this is followed by hiding from your presence.**

**P** *The devil has devoured so much of our lives.*

**C** **God, be merciful to us, sinners in need of a Savior.**

**P** *Upon this confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. You are free.*

**C** **We will be self-controlled and alert, for our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *Almighty God, you have warned us that our enemy Satan prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking to lead us into sin and despair. Help us to resist him, standing firm in our faith in Christ Jesus. Forgive us when we fail and fall to temptation, and raise us up to fight again. Strengthen our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are suffering persecution. Fill them, and us, with the hope and comfort of the*

*resurrection and sure and certain knowledge that we will live forever in your presence. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Ephesians 6:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

**L** *This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

**L** *This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

**John 17:1-11**

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.*

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. <sup>6</sup>"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup>For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

**P** *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

## **SERMON**

**“Good vs Evil”**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**P** *Guard Your people, O Lord, and grant us unity of faith and singleness of heart as we come to You in prayer.*

**P** *Lord, You have promised not to abandon Your people but to be with us always. Grant us grace to hear Your Word with faith and receive Your Holy Sacrament with repentant hearts, and to keep what we hear and receive upon our lips in holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** *Lord, You have delivered the saints from fiery trial and raised up the martyr from the darkness of death to everlasting life. Give us courage, that we may give bold witness to the truth in our own day and proclaim Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** *Lord, You have pledged to us Your Spirit and promised to supply Your Church with pastors who will preach and teach Your Word. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe Your Word. Raise up those who will serve Your Church in generations to come, that we may never be without the aid of those to serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** *Lord, You have power over all things and appoint an order on earth for the protection of the weak, the punishment of evildoers and the encouragement of virtue. Bless Donald, our president; Tony, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Give them wisdom for the challenges of our times, and preserve them from self-serving concerns. Give us grace, that we may honor the gift of liberty and be good citizens and neighbors to all. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** *Lord, You have compassion upon all who suffer. Give grace to the sick, to those with mental illness, to the dying in their last hours and to those who grieve. Hear us especially for \_\_\_\_\_ and those we name in our hearts before You. Grant them patience in their afflictions, and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** *Lord, You are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Bless those who teach, those who learn and especially those who graduate this year. Be the hope of those whose plans have been disappointed, and grant that all graduates would find good employment. Guide them in the pursuit of Your Word and truth, to live honorable lives in worthy vocations, that in all things You may be glorified. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** *Lord, You have daily and richly supplied us with all things for this body and life. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with thanksgiving and bring to You our tithes and offerings. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** *Lord, we rejoice in the Savior's promise to guard the people who wear Your name by Baptism and faith. Until we are with You in Your presence forevermore, guard us against the devil who prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking those whom he might devour. Grant us the power to resist him and trust in You without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C** 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 trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

**P** *The Lord bless you with the comfort and joy that radiates from the manger, through the cross, and out of the empty tomb, into our hearts and lives, today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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