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May 13, 2020 ☩ Midweek Devotion

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;  
**in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.**

My mouth is filled with Your praise,  
**and with Your glory all the day.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Reading**

*Psalm 66:8–20*

- <sup>8</sup>Bless our God, O | peoples;\*  
let the sound of his | praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup>who has kept our soul among the | living\*  
and has not let our | feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;\*  
you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup>You brought us in- | to the net;\*  
you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup>you let men ride o- | ver our heads;\*  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.  
<sup>13</sup>I will come into your house with burnt | offerings;\*  
I will perform my | vows to you,  
<sup>14</sup>that which my lips | uttered\*  
and my mouth promised when I was in | trouble.  
<sup>15</sup>I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,

with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;\*  
 I will make an offering of | bulls and goats.  
 16Come and hear, all you who | fear God,\*  
 and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.  
 17I cried to him | with my mouth,\*  
 and high praise was | on my tongue.  
 18If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,\*  
 the Lord would not have | listened.  
 19But truly God has | listened;\*  
 he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.  
 20Blessèd | be God,\*  
 because he has not rejected my prayer  
 or removed his steadfast | love from me!

*Meditation on the Hymn*

**556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
 With exultation springing,  
 And with united heart and voice  
 And holy rapture singing,  
 Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
 How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
 What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
 Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
 Sin was my torment night and day;  
 In sin my mother bore me.  
 But daily deeper still I fell;  
 My life became a living hell,  
 So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,  
 No grace or merit gaining;  
 Free will against God's judgment fought,  
 Dead to all good remaining.  
 My fears increased till sheer despair  
 Left only death to be my share;  
 The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state  
 Before the world's foundation,  
 And mindful of His mercies great,  
 He planned for my salvation.  
 He turned to me a father's heart;  
 He did not choose the easy part  
 But gave His dearest treasure.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:  
    "It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
    And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
    May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
    Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
    He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
    To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me,  
    I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be;  
    For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may remain;  
    The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood,  
    Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good;  
    Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
    And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to My Father I depart,  
    From earth to heav'n ascending,  
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,  
    The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you  
And teach you always to be true  
    And into truth shall guide you.
- 10 "What I on earth have done and taught  
    Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought  
    And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;  
    This final word I leave you."

## 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. 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.

### *Concluding prayers:*

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Then go joyfully to your work.*

## **Acknowledgments**

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