COVENANT COMMUNITY ONLINE

Tuesday Evening Prayer

**TUESDAY, 19 May 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be swift, O God, to save us. **Come quickly, Lord, to help us.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

From the rising of the sun to its setting

**may the Lord’s name be praised.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

**as it was in the beginning is now, and forever will be. Amen**

**Minister:** Let us confess our sins to God:

**Loving God, you have searched us**

**and known us, our blindness, our frailties,**

**our fears and our selfishness.**

**In sorrow we confess that we have sinned**

**against you and disobeyed your command**

**to love.** **Forgive us,** **for the sake of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ,** **who became like us**

**that we might become like him. Amen.**

*Silence*

If we confess our sins God is faithful and just

and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all

unrighteousness. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of the Evening**

**Minister:** God and Father of all as this day ends

we offer up its hours in praise to you.

As we take our rest, unite us by your Spirit,

in praise of Christ our Lord,

the Alpha and Omega,

the First and Last,

in whom we make our prayer. **Amen.**

**Psalm 88**

O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;

I am like those who have no help, like those forsaken among the dead,

like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.

Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

You have caused my companions to shun me;

you have made me a thing of horror to them.

I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

Do you work wonders for the dead?

Do the shades rise up to praise you?

Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,

or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

Are your wonders known in the darkness,

or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. O Lord, why do you cast me off?

Why do you hide your face from me?

Wretched and close to death from my youth up,

I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.

They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.

You have caused friend and neighbour to shun me;

my companions are in darkness.

**Matthew 25.14–30**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Prayers of Intercession**

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace that is from above and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

And for the life and unity of the church,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

That we may worship God in spirit and in truth,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For all ministers of the Church

And the whole company of God’s people,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For the governments of the nations as they seek to minimise the effects of the Covid–19 pandemic

May they seek justice and peace for all people

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For our own country and local community as we learn both the challenges and blessings of social isolation in lockdown,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For the sick, the afflicted, for prisoners,

for those especially at risk, especially those whose broken relationships mean that lockdown is even more challenging,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

For ourselves,

that we may truly serve him who called us

out of darkness into his marvellous light,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

That with all who have served God and are now at rest,

we may enter into the fullness of unending joy,

let us pray to the Lord: **Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask,

help us to ask only what accords with your will;

and those good things which we dare not

or in our blindness cannot ask,

grant us for the sake of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In silence we bring more personal intercessions before God.

As our Saviour taught his disciples we pray:

**Our Father….**

Lord our God

At the ending of this day,

And in the darkness and silence of this night,

Cover us with healing and forgiveness,

That we may take our rest in peace;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

**The Benediction**

We will lie down in peace and take our rest;

**For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

**The Dismissal**

May the souls of the faithful,

Through the mercy of God,

Rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

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