

East Palmyra Christian Reformed Church
Lord's Day Devotions
April 19, 2020

Psalm 124:8:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm of Praise (Read Psalm 145):

(Song: "Rejoice, the Lord is King" #224 in the red hymnal and #368 in the blue Psalter-Hymnal)

Prayer for God's Blessing:

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Law (Read Exodus 20:1-17)

Confession of Sins:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against Your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and so we are helpless without You. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders, spare us, as we confess our faults, restore us, as we are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and devout life, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

God's Promise of Forgiveness (Ephesians 2:8-9):

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Psalm of Thanksgiving (Read Psalm 118)

Belgic Confession Article 16: The Doctrine of Election

We believe that—all Adam's descendants having thus fallen into perdition and ruin by the sin of Adam—God showed himself to be as he is: merciful and just.

God is merciful in withdrawing and saving from this perdition those who, in the eternal and unchangeable divine counsel, have been elected and chosen in Jesus Christ our Lord by his pure goodness, without any consideration of their works. God is just in leaving the others in their ruin and fall into which they plunged themselves.

Prayer for God's Blessing on the Hearing of His Word:

Blessed Lord, who has caused Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that through the comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Reading:	Deuteronomy 7:6-11
New Testament Reading:	John 15:12-27
	1 Peter 1:1-2

Message:

"Trinitarian Salvation" Pastor Michael Saville
(This message is available on the church website, our Facebook page, or on CD.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

1. Thanksgiving to God for our salvation in Jesus Christ.
2. Thanksgiving to God for the church and the ministry of the gospel.
3. Thanksgiving to God for his work in the world during this difficult time.
4. Pray for the COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - for those suffering from the virus throughout the world.
 - for those who have lost family members and loved ones.
 - for the medical workers in our hospitals.
 - for the leaders in the U.S. and other nations who are making difficult decisions about how best to handle the situation.
 - that the Lord would bring this pandemic to an end.
 - for those whose livelihoods are being affected.
 - that we would not fear but trust the Lord.
 - that God would be glorified and that good would come through our present circumstances.
 - that congregations like our own would soon be able to meet again safely.
5. Pray for the preaching of the gospel among all the nations.
6. Pray for the persecuted church in nations like China and the Middle East.
7. Pray for our national, state, and local leaders.
8. Pray for our local community
 - for East Palmyra Christian School (principal, teachers, families) as they cope with the challenges of COVID-19 (eg. families losing jobs, changes to fundraising plans).
 - for families who have lost jobs and are being affected in other ways.

- for other local congregations as they seek to do the Lord's work in these challenging times.
- for the Family Promise ministry.

9. Pray for the needs of our congregation:
(Please see the Congregational Prayers in the announcements section)

10. Close with the Lord's Prayer

Closing Psalm (Read Psalm 67)

(Song: "God of Mercy, God of Grace" #936 in the red hymnal or "O God, to Us Show Mercy" #121 in the blue Psalter-Hymnal)

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, who has promised to hear the petitions of those who pray in Your Son's name, we ask You mercifully to incline Your ear to us, who have now made our prayers and supplications to You. Grant that those things that we have faithfully asked, according to Your will, may be obtained, to the relief of our needs and to the setting forth of Your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering: Though we are unable to collect an offering in worship we are encouraging our church family to continue supporting our congregation's ministry in the coming days.

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