

Morning Prayer

Wednesday, October 25th

Psalm 38

- 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me.
- 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin.
- 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.
- 5 My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness;
- 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning.
- 7 For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.
- 8 I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.
- 9 O Lord, all my longing is known to you; my sighing is not hidden from you.
- 10 My heart throbs; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.
- 11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.

- 12 Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin and meditate on treachery all day long.
- 13 But I am like the deaf; I do not hear; like the mute, who cannot speak.
- 14 Truly, I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth is no retort.
- 15 But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
- 16 For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me, those who boast against me when my foot slips."
- 17 For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me.
- 18 I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.
- 19 Those who are my foes without cause[a] are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
- 20 Those who render me evil for good are my adversaries because I follow after good.
- 21 Do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, do not be far from me;
- 22 make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:51-58)

Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 12:1-14)

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.