## **Morning Prayer**

Wednesday, March 13th

## Psalm 109

1 Do not be silent, O God of my praise.

2 For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues.

3 They surround me with words of hate and attack me without cause.

4 In return for my love they accuse me, even while I make prayer for them.

5 So they reward me evil for good and hatred for my love.

6 They say, "Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand on his right.

7 When he is tried, let him be found guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin.

8 May his days be few; may another seize his position.

9 May his children be orphans and his wife a widow.

10 May his children wander about and beg; may they be driven out of the ruins they inhabit.

11 May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil.

12 May there be no one to do him a kindness nor anyone to pity his orphaned children.

13 May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation.

14 May the iniquity of his father be remembered before the Lord, and do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out.

15 Let them be before the Lord continually, and may his memory be cut off from the earth.

16 For he did not remember to show kindness but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted to their death.

17 He loved to curse; let curses come on him. He did not like blessing; may it be far from him.

18 He clothed himself with cursing as his coat; may it soak into his body like water, like oil into his bones.

19 May it be like a garment that he wraps around himself, like a belt that he wears every day."

20 May that be the reward of my accusers from the Lord, of those who speak evil against my life.

21 But you, O Lord my Lord, act on my behalf for your name's sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me.

22 For I am poor and needy, and my heart is pierced within me.

23 I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust.

24 My knees are weak through fasting; my body has become gaunt.

25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.

26 Help me, O Lord my God! Save me according to your steadfast love.

27 Let them know that this is your hand; you, O Lord, have done it.

28 Let them curse, but you will bless. Let my assailants be put to shame; may your servant be glad.

29 May my accusers be clothed with dishonor; may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a mantle.

30 With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord; I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

31 For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save them from those who would condemn them to death.

## A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

## A reading from the Gospel of Mark (Mark 8:27-9:1)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

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