

Morning Prayer

Wednesday, April 10th

Psalm 119:1-24

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

2 Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts!

3 Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways.

4 You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

6 Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite all the judgments of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

17 Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law.

19 I am a stranger here on earth; do not hide your commandments from me.

20 My soul is consumed at all times with longing for your judgments.

21 You have rebuked the insolent; cursed are they who stray from your commandments!

22 Turn from me shame and rebuke, for I have kept your decrees.

23 Even though rulers sit and plot against me, I will meditate on your statutes.

24 For your decrees are my delight, and they are my counselors.

A reading from the first letter of Peter (1 Peter 2:1-10)

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of John (John 15:1-11)

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

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