



St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church

Morning Prayer

Wednesday, October 9th

Psalm 119:145-176

145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord. I will keep your statutes.

146 I cry to you; save me, that I may observe your decrees.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your words.

148 My eyes are awake before each watch of the night, that I may meditate on your promise.

149 In your steadfast love hear my voice; O Lord, in your justice preserve my life.

150 Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near; they are far from your law.

151 Yet you are near, O Lord, and all your commandments are true.

152 Long ago I learned from your decrees that you have established them forever.

153 Look on my misery and rescue me, for I do not forget your law.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes.

156 Great is your mercy, O Lord; be gracious to me according to your justice.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

158 I look at the faithless with disgust because they do not keep your commands.

159 Consider how I love your precepts; be gracious to me according to your steadfast love.

160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

161 Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.

164 Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances.

165 Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I fulfill your commandments.

167 My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.

168 I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

170 Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

171 My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

172 My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

175 Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 23:23-35)

Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, "Get ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and take him safely to Felix the governor." He wrote a letter to this effect:

"Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman, I came with the guard and rescued him. Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council. I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him."

So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod's headquarters.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 7:18-35)

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to

come, or are we to expect someone else?'" Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight; the lame walk; those with a skin disease are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, having been baptized with John's baptism. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law, not having been baptized by him, rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

"To what, then, will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.'

"For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**