



Morning Prayer

Wednesday, January 29th

Psalm 119:49-72

49 Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.

50 This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.

51 The arrogant utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.

52 When I think of your ordinances from of old, I take comfort, O Lord.

53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, those who forsake your law.

54 Your statutes have been my songs wherever I make my home.

55 I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law.

56 This blessing has fallen to me, for I have kept your precepts.

57 The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

58 I implore your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

59 When I think of your ways, I turn my feet to your decrees;

60 I hurry and do not delay to keep your commandments.

61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

62 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.

63 I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes.

65 You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

67 Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word.

68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

69 The arrogant smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

70 Their hearts are thick like fat, but I delight in your law.

71 It is good for me that I was humbled, so that I might learn your statutes.

72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

A reading from the letter to the Galatians *(Galatians 2:11-21)*

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood self-condemned, for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the gentiles to live like Jews?"

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not gentile sinners, yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark *(Mark 6:13-29)*

They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. King Herod

heard of it, for Jesus's name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*