



## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, March 12th

### 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 Hebrews**  
(3:12-19)

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.

As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

Now who were they who heard and rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? And with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to John**  
(2:23-3:15)

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone, for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**