



MORNING PRAYER

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, June 10th

Psalm 72

1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the Kings Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more

8 He shall rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth

9 His foes shall bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts

11 All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight

15 Long may he live! and may there be given to him gold from Arabia; may prayer be made for him always, and may they bless him all the day long

16 May there be abundance of grain on the Earth, growing thick even on the hilltops; may its fruit flourish like Lebanon, and its grain like grass upon the earth

17 May his Name remain for ever and be established as long as the sun endures; may all the nations bless themselves in him and call him blessed

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! and may all the Earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

A reading from the Letter to the Galatians
(Galatians 5:1-15)

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that, if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be reckoned as righteous by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. But my brothers and sisters, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

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

A reading from the Gospel According to Matthew
(Matthew 16:1-12)

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." Then he left them and went away.

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus said to them, "Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." They said to one another, "It is because we have brought no bread." And becoming aware of it, Jesus said, "You of little faith, why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many baskets you gathered? How could you fail to perceive that I was not speaking about bread? Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!" Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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