



Devotional Resource for Sunday, August 27th

Christ Memorial Family,

This resource is designed for you to have a time of worship with your family/friends during this day of catastrophic flooding in our beloved city. Please share/use this resource in anyway you see fit. May Jesus continue to bless and keep you today and always!

Invocation: Our identity is children of God. That is why we begin worship saying the following: In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Saying this while making the sign of the cross reminds us of the fact that we are sons/daughters of Jesus, and that we are His baptized and loved children.

Prayer: I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day from every sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself,

my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Confession: Forgive my sins, O Lord - forgive me the sins of my present and the sins of my past, the sins of my soul and the sins of my body; the sins which I have done to please myself, and the sins which I have done to please others. Forgive me for my idle or serious sins, forgive me those sins which I know and those sins which I don't know, the sins I have tried to hide from others and the sins I have hidden from myself. Forgive them O Lord. Forgive them all. Because of your great mercy forgive me, and because of your never ending goodness deliver me from the bonds of all the sins I have committed. Grant this heavenly Father for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen.

Psalm 32:5 tells you and me this: I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

This morning, no matter what you are facing, this is your reality. It is my joy and privilege as your pastor to tell you that Jesus has forgiven you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen!

Psalm 100:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 14: 22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Sermon - Listen to Pastor Mark's sermon on the Christ Memorial Website (christmemorialhouston.church) or check our Christ Memorial's Facebook page at 11:00 a.m. or after for a Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/christmemorialhouston) Devotional thought from Pastor Danny.

Prayers: Here are a number of prayers that you can utilize during this time. Included are also some prayers from within the Christ Memorial Family.

- O Lord, You command and raise up the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea, that people might cry to You in their trouble, experience Your deliverance, and give You thanks. Hear our prayers for all who are in danger through the threatened path of this storm. Be their shelter and protection, and may Your holy angels be a shield about them. Remember especially in mercy all who will work through the storm and its aftermath to provide aid and restoration; give them strength and courage and make them a blessing to all they serve. We ask this in the name of Jesus, whose Voice the wind and waves both know and obey.

- Heavenly Father, Your Word reminds us that, even in the midst of storms, we are always in Your care. We pray that, as Hurricane Harvey approaches land, You would protect the people and property of this region and that, as You see fit, You would turn this storm in a way that minimizes damage. To those who are frightened, give peace. To those who ride out the storm, grant safety. To those who evacuate, provide not only a place to stay, but preserve for them a place to return. Be with the police officers, the firefighters, the EMS personnel, the governing officials, the health care professionals, the refinery workers, and any others who, by virtue of their vocations, are called to remain in the adversely affected areas. We thank You for their willingness to serve and we pray that You would protect them. Thank you, kind Father. We know that, even when a powerful storm strikes, You are bigger and stronger than any storm. Help us to always remember that Your Son, Jesus, is with us through EVERY storm. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- Prayer of the Church: Lord, You are such a loving, gracious, and strong Father. Provide peace, safety, and protection to everyone in our beloved community. Give strength to those who have flooding in their homes and businesses. May we as brothers and sisters in Christ come alongside them to support them and care for them in whatever ways possible. Almighty God, we pray that you would grant health and strength to all of those in authority, that they may carry out their duties according to Your will. May our land be filled with citizens who love you with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and may they love their neighbors as their selves. We pray for Chuck Izzo recovering from heart surgery, and for Joanne Schneider who is hospitalized. We pray for all of those in our church family and in our local community who have received water in

their home, especially those in the area of Buffalo Bayou. Especially we pray for health, safety, and provision for Sue and Skip Early and Jennifer and Derrick Cobb and any others we are not aware of by name at this time. Give them strength, keep them safe, and remind them that you never leave nor forsake them. May we all unite as one community to share your love in whatever way we are needed over the coming days and weeks. It is in the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

- The Lord's Prayer - Taught by the Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray: Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction: Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.