**WORSHIP: WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH**

**Session Fourteen, The Second Sunday in Lent, 17 March 2019**

**9:20 to 10:10**

*Theme: THE DAILY PRAYER OFFICES*

*Gathered, 373-402*

**Opening**

 Opening Versicles from Matins, LSB 219

**The Origin of “Daily Prayer”**

The importance of routine

Acts 2:42-46 and Acts 3:1

Old Testament injunctions to prayer: Ps. 34:1, Ps. 55:17, Dan. 6:10

The *Didache* (Teaching of the Twelve, c. 100)

But say your prayers, give to charity, and engage in all your activities as you have learned in the gospel of our Lord. …..Gather together frequently, seeking what is appropriate for your souls. Nor should you pray like the hypocrites, but as the Lord commanded in his gospel, you should pray as follows: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy, may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For the power and the glory are yours forever.’ Pray like this three times a day.

Didache 8:2-3

Hippolytus, “The Apostolic Tradition,” (early 3rd century)

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| **Roman (Solar) Hour** | **Approximate Modern Time** | **Rationale** |
| 3rd  | 9 a.m. | Christ nailed to the cross |
| 6th | 12 p.m. Noon | Jesus on the cross; darkness |
| 9th | 3 p.m. | Christ dies |
| Before bed | Evening (when it gets dark) | Sleep is a “little death” |
| Midnight |  | Keep Watch—you know not the hour of Christ’s return. |
| Dawn (cockcrow) | 6 a.m. or so | Children of Israel (Peter, Sanhedrin) denied Christ |

4th Century: Cathedral Offices and Monastic Offices (also called the “Canonical Hours”)

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| **The Rule of St. Benedict, c. 530**  |
| Lauds Before Dawn (3 a.m.)Prime Dawn (6 a.m.)Terce 9 a.m.Sext 12 noonNone 3 p.m.Vespers 6 p.m. (Early Evening)Compline Before BedMatins 12 a.m. Midnight |

St. Benedict (480-547)

 Psalm 119:164

 Sing ALL the Psalms in a week’s time

The Middle Ages—Changes and Additions to the Prayers Offices

 Hymns

 Additional Offices

 Non-Scriptural Readings

 Private recitations of the offices

 Breviaries: see *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, published by Concordia Publishing House

 Canticles and Psalms

 *Lectio Continuo*

The Reformation’s correction of the Middle Age Crisis

 Abuses noted by Luther:

Three serious abuses have crept into the service. First, God’s Word has been silenced, and only reading and singing remain in the churches. This is the worst abuse. Second, when God’s Word had been silenced such a host of un-Christian fables and lies, in legends, hymns, and sermons were introduced that it is horrible to see. Third, such divine service was performed as a work whereby God’s grace and salvation might be won. As a result, faith disappeared and everyone pressed to enter the priesthood, convents, and monasteries, and to build churches and endow them. (American Edition of *Luther’s Works*, 53, page 13.)

 Offices reduced:

One for the morning (Matins or Morning Prayer)

Noontime prayer (See LSB 296, “Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross…”)

One for the evening (Vespers or Evening Prayer)

A Prayer before Bedtime: Compline (LSB 253)

*LOOKING AHEAD:*

*March 24, “Funerals, Confirmations, Weddings…and much, much more”*

*March 31, “Children and Worship”*