



FIRST SCOTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Of Beaufort

— PCA —

THE LORD'S DAY

May 17, 2026

Sunday School: 9:30AM (all ages)
Morning Worship Service: 10:40AM
Evening Worship Service: 5PM

www.firstscotsbeaufort.org
335 Sams Point Road, Beaufort, SC 29907
admin@firstscotsbeaufort.org | (843)379-0134

Prayer of Preparation: “Righteousness”

by Thomas Brooks

From *Fount of Heaven: Prayers of the Early Church* by Robert Elmer

Eternal Father,
this is my comfort: the imputed
righteousness of Christ.
This answers all my fears, doubts
and objections.
How shall I look up to you?
 In the righteousness of Christ.
How shall I have any communion
with you, a holy God?
 In the righteousness of Christ.
How shall I find acceptance with
you?
 In the righteousness of Christ.
How shall I die?
 In the righteousness of Christ.
How shall I stand before the
judgment seat?
 In the righteousness of Christ.
So help me to remember Christ,
and his suffering,
 my mediator and surety, my
 sure and only way,
 under all temptations, fears,
 conflicts, and doubts.

Christ, you are my sin, in being
made sin for me;
 and you are my curse, being
 made a curse for me.
Or rather, I am your sin, and you
are my righteousness.
 I am your curse, and you are
 my blessing.
 I am your death, and you are
 my life.
 I am the wrath of God to you,
 and you are the love of God to
 me.

I am your hell, and you are my
heaven.

Father, if I think of my sins, and of your
wrath;
 if I think of my guilt, and of your
 justice,
my heart faints and fails, and sinks into
despair,
 if I do not also think of Christ,
 and if I do not rest my soul on his
 righteousness.

This is a precious truth, worth more than
a world,
 that all my sins are pardoned,
 not only through mercy, but also by
 justice.

Satan and my conscience
 may cast many things on my plate:
 the multitude and greatness of my
 sins.

But one good word will support and
comfort me:

Christ has redeemed us from all our
iniquities.

The righteousness of Christ is my life, my
joy, my comfort,
 my crown, my confidence, my
 heaven, my all.

And so, enable me, I pray, to fix my eyes
on the mediatory righteousness of
Christ;
for this is the righteousness by which
I may safely and comfortably live,
and by which I may happily and
quietly die.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

MAY 17, 2026

Parents, we are delighted for your little ones to join us in worship! If they need to stretch their legs or lungs during the service, please feel free to use the Worshippers in Training (WIT) room or the nursery.

WELCOME

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 55:6-9

[6]“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; [7]let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. [8]For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. [9]For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:**

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Trinity Hymnal #305

OLD TESTAMENT READING/CALL TO CONFESSION: ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

[1]Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. [2]And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” [3]Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. [4]And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” [5]And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

MORNING SERMON TEXT

[23]“In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. [24]Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. [25]I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. [26]In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; [27]for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. [28]I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”—John 16:23-28

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES

I. PRAYER IS THE HIGHEST GOSPEL PRIVILEGE

II. PRAYER GRABS HOLD OF THE INFINITE RICHES OF GOD

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE & NOTES (CONT'D)

III. PRAYER IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT TOOL FOR EVERY JOB

Before the Throne of God Above

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. Hebrews 4:14*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, and tells me of the guilt with
3. Be - hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb! My per - fect, spot - less Right - eous

plea, a great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ev - er
- in, up - ward I look and see Him there who made an
- ness; the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of

lives and pleads for me. My name is grav - en on His hands;
end to all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died,
glo - ry and of grace! One with Him - self I can - not die;

my name is writ - ten on His heart; I know that
my sin - ful soul is count - ed free; for God the
my soul is pur - chased with His blood; my life is

Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft, alternate lyrics by Vikki Cook; Music: Vikki Cook

© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCA) All rights reserved. Administered worldwide
at CapitolCMGPublishing.com, excluding the UK which is adm. by Integrity Music,
part of the David C Cook family. Used by permission.

while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my

-part; no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
me; to look on Him and par - don me.
God; with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

The Love of the Father

(a devotional on John 16:25-28 from www.ligonier.org)

We return to our study of John's gospel today and continue our look at the Farewell Discourse of Jesus (John 14–17). In the lead-up to today's passage, Jesus has been preparing His disciples for the days ahead after He is no longer present with them bodily. He has said some things they have found hard to understand (16:17–18), but it must be noted that Jesus' earthly ministry is known for its enigmatic sayings, for parables that veil the truth to the hard-hearted and reveal it to believers (Mark 4:10–12). Many of the people listening to Jesus have found much of His teaching unclear, though this is not the fault of Jesus but of hearers who are ignorant of the kingdom of God or hardened against it. Still, even those who believe have found Jesus' teaching difficult at times because of His manner of speaking.

However, with the resurrection, all of that is about to change. A time is coming when Jesus will no longer use figures of speech but will speak plainly about the Father (John 16:25). In light of Jesus' references to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and to His departure in the crucifixion and return in the resurrection (vv. 4b–24), our Lord clearly refers to a new state of affairs that will exist after His earthly ministry is completed. With the outpouring of the Spirit, the disciples will enjoy a greater understanding of our Savior's person and work. We can see this in the history of the Apostolic period. The same disciples who once could not accept that Jesus would die became mighty preachers of the cross (Matt. 16:21–23; Acts 2). In fulfillment of today's passage, they finally understood. Jesus spoke to them plainly.

Because of their new understanding of the Father, they will go to Him in prayer in the name of Jesus (John 16:26; see v. 23). But this does not mean that Jesus will ask the Father for things on their behalf (v. 26). This statement seems strange at first, given the extensive teaching in the New Testament about Christ's work as intercessor. John Calvin offers a helpful explanation. He comments that "Christ does not absolutely say, in this passage, that he will not be Intercessor, but he only means, that the Father will be so favorably disposed towards the disciples, that, without any difficulty, he will give freely whatever they shall ask." In other words, approaching the Father in the name of Jesus does not mean the Son has to coax the Father to listen to us or that the Son is a barrier between us and the Father. The Father loves us and wants to hear from us (John 16:27–28).

The book of Hebrews and many other passages in Scripture indicate that Jesus intercedes with the Father for us and for the sake of our perseverance. That does not mean, however, that Jesus somehow has to convince God to be favorable to us. The Father loves us no less than the Son loves us, so we should be encouraged that He will listen to us and be gracious to us when we go before Him in prayer.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING

May 17, 2026

Hymn Sing

Rev. Alex Mark
Senior Pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

[1]Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! [2]Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, [3]who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, [4]who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, [5]who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

**Opening Hymn:*

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Trinity Hymnal #76

Scripture Reading:

Acts 7:30-53

Evening Prayer

Scripture Reading & Sermon:

"JEALOUSY"
Genesis 4:1-16

Rev. Alex Mark

**Hymn of Preparation:*

Be Thou My Vision
Stanzas 1 through 4

Trinity Hymnal #642

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Hymn of Gratitude:*

Be Thou My Vision
Stanza 5

Trinity Hymnal #642

**Benediction*

**Congregation Standing*

GENESIS 4:1-16

[1]Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” [2]And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. [3]In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, [4]and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, [5]but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. [6]The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? [7]If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

[8]Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. [9]Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” [10]And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. [11]And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. [12]When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” [13]Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. [14]Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” [15]Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. [16]Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

EVENING SERMON NOTES

EVENING SERMON NOTES (CONT'D)

A Mark on Cain

(a devotional on Genesis 4: 13-16 from www.ligonier.org)

In today's passage, Cain's response to the judgment the Lord pronounces upon Him reaches a climax when he flees from the presence of God (Gen. 4:16). Before looking at verses 13–16, however, we will first pause to reflect on the initial part of the curse in 4:11–12.

Moses tells us in verse 11 that God's curse was pronounced directly on Cain. This is important because even though Adam and Eve suffered the effects of the fall, curses were not placed immediately upon their heads (3:16–19). The serpent, on the other hand, was directly cursed ("cursed are you," v. 14). We must not miss what our author is telling us here. Because Cain is also himself cursed directly, he is to be regarded as of the serpent. The seed of the woman will crush the serpent, but not every human being is a candidate for this work. Some are of the devil; those who never trust in Jesus are, like Cain, the seed of the serpent (John 8:39–47; 1 John 3:12–15).

Later passages of Scripture testify repeatedly of God's desire to forgive repentant sinners (Ex. 34:6–7; Hos. 6:1–3). Cain could have been forgiven had he turned from his iniquity. Yet he only complains of his sentence, despairing that any who saw him would kill him (Gen. 4:13–14). Cain never realizes, as Matthew Henry affirms, that "there is forgiveness with the God of pardons for the greatest sins and sinners; but those forfeit it who despair of it."

God responds to Cain's plea not with a harsh word concerning his arrogance but with a mark to keep him safe from harm (v. 15). Here we see a marvelous example of the Lord's care for covenant breakers, a concern that only makes their ingratitude more condemnable (Rom. 1:18–23).

Cain, whose story began with promise, now tills a ground even more reticent to bear fruit (Gen. 4:12). Incredibly, he is not motivated to acknowledge God's holiness; he would rather flee from the divine presence (v. 16). Such an attempt at life without the Lord is the first choice of all those in sin. At the same time, how many of us live as if we are not dependent upon God or His people? Let us never live as Cain did but instead be quick to rely on the Lord and His church.

Do you believe that you are self-sufficient? Do you really think that you can live without God and the assistance He provides through His people? Though we try to be strong and handle everything ourselves, attempts at complete self-sufficiency are actually a display of weakness. If you need help overcoming a sin or managing your circumstances, quit trying to do it on your own. When your church asks you to help others, heed the call.