Hymn: 516 "Thou Art the Way"
Prayer: Justin Martyr: Apology II.xv "...that all men everywhere may be counted worthy of the truth."
Scripture: John 3:1-8

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JUSTIN MARTYR:
Born of pagan parents at Flavia Neapolis (the ancient Shechem) in Samaria.
Justin's quest for the true philosophy: He believed that the true philosophy would lead to happiness. Happiness would come from a knowledge of the truth. Truth would bring the knowledge of God. This was his goal. The quest led him through the schools of philosophy to Christianity.
Stoicism: knowledge of God not possible or necessary
Aristotelianism: the teacher asked for a fee
Pythagoreanism: must first master the liberal arts
Platonism: the search for the mystical vision of God
He meets an old man who guides him to the prophets who lead him to Christ who has imparted the knowledge of God that brings true happiness. Justin embraced Christianity c. 130 A.D. when he was about thirty years old.
Justin taught in Ephesus for a time; about A.D. 135 he had a debate with a Jew who had fled to Ephesus from Jerusalem at the time of the collapse of the Jewish Revolt.
Justin later opened a school in Rome. Tatian was one of his pupils. Here he produced his great literary works which some consider the most important of the Apologists:
APOLOGY I: C. 150 A.D. Addressed to the Emperor Antoninus Pius and his sons, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. The occasion of the apology may have been a public attack on Christianity in an oration delivered by the great rhetorician, Fronto, whom Antoninus Pius had employed to tutor Marcus Aurelius.

THE DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO: c. 155 A.D. This is Justin's report of his debate with the Jew in Ephesus about twenty years earlier.

APOLOGY II: c. 160 A.D. Ptolemaeus, a Christian teacher, had been put to death when he was denounced to the Roman government for converting his wife to Christianity. Lucius, another Christian, was put to death for protesting the unjust treatment of Ptolemaeus.
Justin is believed to have composed a number of works now lost:
"Book against all Heresies," "On the Resurrection;"
"Against Marcion;" "Discourse against the Greeks;" "On the Sovereignty of God."
Later many spurious works were ascribed to Justin.
Martyrdom of Justin: After a street debate in which Justin embarrassed the Cynic philosopher, Crescens, Crescens denounced Justin to the government and Justin and a number of his pupils were brought to trial and condemned to be beheaded c. 165 A.D.
JUSTIN MARTYR: APOLOGY I
An appeal to reason: Christians are condemned unjustly for their name. Refutation of the charge of atheism: Christians believe in God, his Son, the prophetic Spirit, and good angels. The folly and evil influence of idolatry. Christians serve God rationally: Beautiful picture of Christian living. Christians are taught to obey the laws and to pay their taxes. Christians live in hope of resurrection. The argument from the messianic prophecies. Demons have counterfeited the good and raised up heresies: Simon, Menander, Marcion. Plato borrowed from Moses. Christian baptism, ch. LXI The Eucharist and the Lord's Day, chs. LXV-LXVII The Memoirs of Apostles, called Gospels

JUSTIN MARTYR: DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO
The rude behavior of the Jews during the debate—especially at the end of Justin's account of his quest for the true philosophy. Justin blamed the Jews for much of the persecution of Christians: the Jews spread falsehoods about Christ and the Christians. Justin accused the Jews of rejecting the Septuagint and of making modern translations to get rid of the messianic prophecies. Trypho objected to Justin's metaphors and use of the allegorical interpretation. Justin presented the One Thousand Year Reign as truth but admitted that not all Christians believed as he did. Mary as the Second Eve. Christians as the True Israel. The Spread of Christianity: Christians fulfill Malachi 1:11. Justin tries to convince the Jews of three great truths: The transitoriness of the Old Testament The Logos or Word in the Old Testament The call of the Gentiles foretold by the prophets Justin pictures the varying attitude of Christians toward the Law Justin urged that the Jews could be saved only by accepting Christ.

JUSTIN MARTYR: APOLOGY II
Christians correct sinners and will live with God. Evil demons move the rulers to persecute. The judge, Urbicus, condemned the teacher, Ptolemaeus, and his defender, Lucius. Ptolemaeus had converted the wife of a pagan. The angels that sinned. The significance of the Word (Logos). Philosophers who lived by reason (Logos) will be saved. The world is preserved for the sake of Christians. Christ and Socrates: Christians do not fear death. Justin prays that all may come to the truth; wants his book published so men will read and not persecute ignorantly.

THE RECORD OF THE TRIAL AND DEATH OF JUSTIN