

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 98:1-2, 3-4**

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alle- | luia!*
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alle-
| luia
His right hand and His | holy arm*
have gained Him the | victory.
He has remembered His | mercy*
and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel.
All the ends | of the earth*
have seen the salvation | of our God.
Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth;*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 16:14**

The Spirit of Truth will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you.

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Our merciful Father, the God who alone make minds of the faithful to be of one will, cause Your people to love what You command and to desire what You promise, that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

TLH 387, LSB 556
Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
How His right arm the victory won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him.</p> | <p>4. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.</p> |
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“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the
dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
the right hand of God, the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
Christian church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY 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 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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. 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 also
from 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.

Evening. I thank you, my
heavenly Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive
me all my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep me this
night. 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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth

For the next Sundays, our Lord's detailed teaching on the Holy Spirit will be heard. Today is the first and greatest of these: What the Holy Spirit does, and for what purpose. He convicts us of sin by His Law, because we by nature believe only in ourselves. Freed from self-righteousness, He then convinces us constantly of the true righteousness we have received in Christ, who reconciled us to the Father. He does this work in the Gospel that is preached and the Sacraments that seal it to us. Lastly, He proclaims what we do not see: the devil, the world, and our flesh already defeated and judged. In all this He guides us into the truth—not something new about ourselves, but something constant: Jesus Christ. Thus, the song of joy and victory begins to be sung even in this world, even before the last day, which is now made certain for us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15—Also the Holy Spirit, the Advocate

The Advocate must convince and convict, as all lawyers do. That is how Jesus explains the work of the Holy Spirit. His first work is more like a prosecutor than a defender: He convicts you of your own sin, rooted in unbelief. But exposing this, He disabuses you of any hope for self-righteousness. His second, gracious work is to convict and convince you of a new righteousness that avails: Christ's, since He has gone to the Father as the sacrifice for your sins. Lastly, you must be convinced still of the fruits of this salvation: the devil, with all his power against you, is crushed. *Lord, guide me into Your truth. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82—Gods Among Mere Mortals...or Not

The Lord establishes earthly authorities. The purpose is the preservation of this world by means of the Law—just judgments, protection from wickedness, and upholding what is good. But civil righteousness and human authority will never save this world. Only the Gospel does that. God, pictured in this Psalm as sitting in the midst of a council of kings whom He addresses as “gods,” gives a vivid reminder: even the kings die like any other mortal man. Let us never put our faith in this world's authorities, even as we honor them. *Lord, save Your people and bless those You have placed over us. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21—Anger from Men or Righteousness from God?

Fallen flesh believes it brings every good thing out of its own doings. We think we know how to respond “righteously.” That is why we love to be angry: anger is me at my most righteous. James does not want us to be deceived. Our anger does not produce the righteousness of God, far from it—it's nearly always self-righteousness. Everything we have comes from the Father as a gift. It comes from His stability, His eternal Word, which both created and redeemed us. Hearing with meekness is what the flesh hates; but it alone makes us righteous. *Lord, still my anger and give me ears quick to hear. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6—God is Not Angry?

If the righteousness of our anger must be questioned, the Lord's must not. It is no surprise to learn that He is justly wrathful at our sins; it is a great surprise to discover that He is gracious to us in Jesus Christ, turning from His anger, and instead comforting us by being our salvation instead of our doom. This is the new song of the Church, which had already begun in the voice of the prophets. The Lord has entered our midst not in wrath but in peace, working salvation for those who have not deserved it. His grace is the cause of our great joy. *Lord, You are my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36—Abiding in Sin or in His Word

God did not send His son to condemn the world, but to save it. When He was lifted up on the cross, God was clearly seen: righteous not to condemn, but to save. There our sins were taken away from us. But what if God, dead on the cross, is rejected? What if this truth will not be received? Then we die not in His Word, free from our sins, but stuck in our sins. No one can remove their own sins by imitating Him. We must receive it. To hear the Word and trust in the crucified God is to have truth, freedom, life, and certainty. *Lord, abide in me with Your Word, that I may abide in You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21—The World is Reconciled

St. Paul speaks about the objective, “once-for-all” nature of Christ's atoning death. All punishment has been borne. All flesh is reconciled to God. Through one act, one man, all men are declared righteous. Thus, the Church has an attitude different than the world. We not only respect all people as created “fellowmen;” we regard them as those for whom Christ died. And the Word of reconciliation dare not be preached as a future possibility (if you decide for it...) but as a finished reality: You are reconciled; therefore, be reconciled! *Lord, thank You for Your great salvation in the death of Jesus. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126—Mouths Filled with Laughter

The work of God in the past ought to give us confidence. When we consider the Lord's mercy to His people, this is the seed of our hope. Chiefly are we bound to praise Him for the glorious resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, who rolled back the captivity of death and brought life and immortality to light. In suffering, we are not afraid to pray that the Lord relieve us. In death, we plant the bodies of our loved ones with tears into the ground, but nevertheless in confident hope: The Lord will also raise them, and we will rejoice on the last day with unmingled joy. *Lord, restore our fortunes again in Christ. Amen.*

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