

“He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 81:1, 7, 10, 16

As newborn babes, Alle- | luia,\*  
 desire the pure milk of the Word. Alleluia. Alle- | luia.  
 Sing aloud to | God our strength;\*  
 make a joyful shout to the God of | Jacob.  
 You called in trouble, and I de- | livered you;\*  
 I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.  
 I am the | Lord your God,\*  
 who brought you out of the land of | Egypt;  
 open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.\*  
 With honey from the rock I would have sa- | tisfied you.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 1: 18-19

“...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, as You have brought us to celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection, cause us by Your grace to bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; through the same 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  
**I Am Content! My Jesus Liveth Still**

TLH 196, LSB 468  
 Johann J. Möller



1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,  
 In whom my heart is pleased,  
 He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,  
 God's wrath He hath appeased.  
 Since He in death could perish never,  
 I also shall not die forever.  
 I am content! I am content!

5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee  
 And wake me from the dead  
 That I may rise forevermore to be  
 With Thee, my living Head.  
 The fetters of my body sever,  
 Then shall my soul rejoice forever.  
 I am content! I am content!

2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head:  
 His member I will be,  
 He bowed His head when on the cross He died  
 With cries of agony.  
 Now death is brought into subjection  
 For me, too, by His resurrection.  
 I am content! I am content!

**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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create

Forgiveness and faith seem useless to the world. They're not tangible and the only occasions they appear to be worth much is for personal advancement or political maneuvering. To those who are under the law and terrified by their sins, those who lack forgiveness, and see God's demand for justice, however, forgiveness and faith through Christ Jesus makes all the difference. For us who possess Jesus' resurrection as our own, forgiveness and faith are inestimable gifts from the risen Lord and His Spirit, worthy of highest praise and thanksgiving. Our heartfelt prayer is to never be robbed of Christ, His Word or Sacraments, but always be kept in the one true faith to life everlasting.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31 "Even So I am Sending You"

"That we may obtain this faith..." begins Article V of the Augsburg Confession. What faith? Article IV: "People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe their sins are forgiven...By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight." Jesus has conquered sin and death, and through His disciples justification by faith will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Jesus gives His Spirit to His terrified disciples to open their minds and equip them to preach, teach, and administer the Sacraments, bringing forgiveness and faith to all who hear and believe. It would be awful if Jesus rose from the dead and the gospel just stayed put at the empty tomb! *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving Your Spirit and sending Your ministers. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 "I Will Give Thanks With My Whole Heart"

The Lord is worthy of highest praise. Who else can create? Who else can give life? Who else is perfectly patient and loving? The Psalmist calls all Christians to give thanks together, to be with those who delight in hearing and studying the Lord in worship, prayer, and the Holy Communion. Knit together, Christians call upon and receive from the Lord those things He has caused us to remember (vv. 3, 5, 7, 9): His Son's life-giving death in Word and Sacrament. "As often as ye drink this cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." The saving acts of the Lord bring us forgiveness and faith for Christ's sake. Therefore we thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. *O Saving God, You have refreshed Your whole church on heaven and on earth with Your salutary gifts and we are glad. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:4-10 "These Three Agree"

"In this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world." Jesus' promise of victory over sin and death (Jn. 16:33) is imparted to believers in verse five. The Lord Jesus gives to you living testimony of His victory in water and blood by the Spirit. The Spirit creates faith in you, a supply line to the inexhaustible love of God. In Holy Baptism's waters you are sealed to His saving Name by the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. In the Holy Communion, His atoning blood is given for you to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. These Means of Grace are given for growth, maturity, and daily assurance, and signal that you possess the true gift of Christ: victory over sin. *O God, Keep me always in life eternal, life in Your Son. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27 "In My Flesh I Shall See God"

Job's jubilant confession is especially comforting when heard or sung (*LSB 461, TLH 200*) near death and especially at funerals and committals. Yet, it saturates through the whole Christian life. When our bodies groan under the consequences of sin (chronic, severe illnesses, eyes dimming, joints wearing out) and cry out in faith to God for comfort, we are exceedingly glad and confident the Lord has graciously promised us a bodily resurrection of imperishable flesh. The Lord Jesus' own resurrection secures ours: Jesus will come in glory, as a real living man in true flesh and blood, no ethereal spirit. Our praise and thanksgiving confess the assurance of beholding the Lord Jesus in His full glory and our future glory, without fear of death, and life forever. *Almighty God, I know that my Redeemer lives to bring me safely to You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19 "Feed with Forgiveness"

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Even after Peter denied the Lord three times, the glorified Lord Jesus delights to forgive him seventy-seven times. As He forgives, Jesus sends Peter out to pastor. In feeding weak lambs and tracking down wandering sheep, Peter will preach, teach, rebuke, reprove, and exhort to Christ's flock the very same forgiveness shown to him. He has been shown the goodness and mercy of the Lord in Christ, and in this, by God's grace he will remain all his days. By this forgiveness, he will live and die, even by crucifixion, and remain in the house of the Lord forever. You too, have heard, and believed this. *Shepherd of the Sheep, Preserve Your under shepherds and Your sheep in true fidelity to You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3 "Failure and a Future"

We don't like it when things fail: the phone, the car, friends, spouses, banks, customer service reps. They're supposed to have integrity. It's aggravating for those who "do it right, do it once." Every time something does go wrong, it's a gentle reminder of the consequences of sin in creation. The world is passing away. It is dying and can't be trusted. In His great love, God has answered with the immortal and imperishable: the eternal Son's death and resurrection for you. And this death and resurrection given as the eternal Word is more precious than silver and gold, for it has eternal worth. *Jesus priceless treasure, Thou art mine O Lamb divine! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 Where there is forgiveness, life, and salvation, you are not alone.

The devil loves to convince us that our particular anxieties and worries are fatal. We're tempted to buy his lie because of our individualized culture. Satan seeks to isolate us from God. Isolated by militant enemies, David prays "Answer me...O God!" He can pray so because God has made him righteous by grace though faith in the coming Christ. Believing in God's promise of grace opens the door to the assurance of the steadfast love of God. David and all Christians confess God hears our prayers when we are surrounded by enemies who seem to endlessly prosper. The Lord fills us with joy even in sorrow. He prospers us by joining us to His Son's Holy Body, with all the saints, made alive forever. *Lord, hear me for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

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