

5

**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9**

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.\*  
Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.  
Say to God, "How awesome | are Your works!\*"  
Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-  
| selves to You.  
Come and see the | works of God;\*  
He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.  
Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!\*"  
And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,  
He keeps our soul among the | living,\*  
And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

6

**SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 16:20**

"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

7

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

8

**PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; 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.

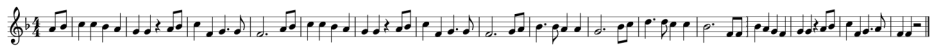
9

**PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

10

**SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
Like the Golden Sun Ascending**

TLH 207, LSB 548  
Thomas Kingo



1. Like the golden sun ascending,  
Breaking through the gloom of night,  
On the earth his glory spending  
So that darkness takes to flight,  
Thus my Jesus from the grave  
And Death's dismal, dreadful cave  
Rose triumphant Easter morning  
At the early purple dawning.

2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!  
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!  
Death hath now no power o'er us,  
Thou hast conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because Thou didst arise  
And hast opened Paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.

4. Thou hast died for my  
transgression,  
All my sins on Thee were laid;  
Thou hast won for me salvation,  
On the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise  
And shall meet Thee in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory;  
I shall lift my head in glory.

6. For the joy Thy advent gave me,  
For Thy holy, precious Word;  
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,  
For Thy blest Communion board;  
For Thy death, the bitter scorn,  
For Thy resurrection morn,  
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,  
And in heaven I shall behold Thee.



"He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy"

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 Give Us Believing Joy

Today is one of three Sundays in the church year called “Rejoice” Sunday in English, but after three different Latin words with three different shades of meaning. Advent III bids you to “Rejoice [*gaudete*] in the Lord always,” anticipating the festival of Jesus’ incarnation. Lent IV invites you to “Rejoice ye [*laetare*] with Jerusalem and be glad with her”—a subdued and hidden joy, anticipating Easter’s full-throated joy. Easter IV bids you to “Make a joyful [*jubilat*] noise to the Lord”—the language of unbridled joy as our lessons proclaim that good news that the crucified One has risen indeed, granting believing joy to the new Jerusalem.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-23 “A Little While”

Jesus repeats “a little while” seven times here. Does this seven-fold repetition coincidentally (or perhaps providentially?) correspond to the seven “little whites” from John 16 to His second coming? The disciples did not see Him for three days, then He appeared to Mary. The tension between faith and sight, between His immediate presence and His mysterious presence, continued through two appearances in the upper room, His appearance on the beach for a breakfast of 153 fish and chips, then to the day of Pentecost, to His ongoing “appearances” in His word and sacraments, and finally to His appearance on the last day. So throughout life’s little whites, He fulfills your prayer: *Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, present in Thy holy Word (TLH 134.5). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75 PSALM INTRODUCTION: The Pillars of the Earth are the Lord’s

Consider, for a moment, three architectural marvels: Egyptian pyramids, Greco-Roman ruins, and European cathedrals. They all draw a host of tourists, but only the cathedrals are still used for their original purpose: Christian worship. Psalm 75 gives you great comfort as you give thanks to God (vss. 1-3), remember God’s judgment on unbelief (vss. 4-8), and take refuge in the God of Jacob (vss. 9-10), knowing that God will preserve you, His own church, “a pillar and buttress of truth” (1 Tim 3:15). For like the pillars that still support medieval cathedrals, your faith is built on Christ, the cornerstone. *O Good Shepherd, Who drank the cup of Thy Passion, establish me upon the pillars of eternal wisdom and the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20 The Saint Peter Option: Exiles in a Foreign Land

See how our secular age rages against the Christ, making unlimited war against God’s creative order of being male and female! What shall the righteous do? One intriguing book, *The Benedict Option*, takes its lead from a revered medieval tradition, but ultimately suggests being *neither in nor of* the world. The secularists, including some Christian adoption agencies, are in and of the world. But St. Peter describes the life of those who have been “admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s religion” (Collect of the Day) as exiles in a foreign land, that is, in but not of the world, that is, not of the sinful flesh, but of the Holy Spirit. *Grant me grace, O blessed Savior... That my walk and my behavior / May be pleasing to the end (TLH 207.5). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26 Wait for the Salvation of the Lord

This chapter is the center of Jeremiah’s five-part lament over impenitent Jerusalem. Hear the full strength of the Law in Jeremiah’s preaching! Jeremiah asks the Lord to remember how his endurance has perished, his hope has vanished, and Jerusalem’s rebellion and coming captivity drive him to sorrow, even as your impenitence leads to false belief, despair, and other shame and vice. “But this I call to mind” (vs. 21) shifts from the Law to the Gospel: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.” After Babylonian captivity, the Lord will build His new Jerusalem (the church), new walls (salvation), and the new Temple Himself, Jesus Christ. *All that I needed / Thy hand hath provided: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me (LSB 809). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11 “O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God”: A Two-Part Reflection on the Hymn of Justinian

See how this reading from St. John and the sixth-century Hymn of Justinian preach the good news that Jesus is the way to the Father: *O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God, who, although immortal, for our salvation did yet consent to be incarnated from the holy mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, Who without change was made man and was crucified.* Phillip (and presumably all of Jesus’ disciples) wanted a way to the Father, not realizing that to know Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life made flesh—is to know the Father. So be not troubled, O Christian, for one of the Trinity suffered for you. *Christ, our God, who by death did trample death, who, being one of the Holy Trinity, is glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16 Your Great High Priest in Human Flesh

A young teenage girl once became a paraplegic after being thrown from a horse. When her doctor stood over her on his own healthy legs and offered words of consolation, it was “Job 2.0”—a miserable sorrow. But when a fellow paraplegic wheeled into her room to offer words of encouragement, hope was born anew. Likewise, the author of Hebrews says that you do not have a distant deity who knows nothing of human suffering. Rather, Christ is your great high priest, Who was tempted as you are, yet without sin; Who has passed through the heavens; Who now pleads for you; and Who bids you draw near His throne for eternal joy. *By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension: Help me, good Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 PSALM INTRODUCTION: “Trust not in Rulers; They are but Mortal” (LSB 797.2)

The highest worship of God (praise) is the preaching of the gospel (doctrine). This psalm seamlessly presents praise and doctrine in five strophes, giving voice to God’s mighty works of salvation, similar to the five stanzas of the hymn on Psalm 146, “Praise the Almighty” (LSB 797). Here you confess lifelong praise for God (vss. 1-2), the futility of trusting in earthly princes (vss. 3-4), the salvific works of the God of Jacob (vss. 5-7), the most uniquely messianic works of God (vss. 8-9), and God’s enduring reign in Zion (v. 10). *Glory to You, O Father, Who made the heavens and the earth; to You, O Son, for You are the risen, reigning, and eternal King; and to You, O Holy Ghost, Who defends the widow and the fatherless, now and forevermore. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com](mailto:aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com). Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to [sanctus.org](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week’s author is Rev. Brian Hamer. He is Chaplain to Destroyer Squadron 23 at Naval Base San Diego. He has been married to Jennifer (nee White) since 1997. They are blessed with two daughters, Kaitlyn (b. 2005) and Emma (b. 2010).