

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 68:5-6, 35, 1, 3, 7, 10, 19

God is in His holy habi- / tation.\*  
He gives a home to the / desolate.  
The God of Israel is He who / gives strength\*  
and power to His / people.  
Let God arise, Let His enemies be / scattered;\*  
let those also who hate Him flee be- / fore Him.  
But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice be- / fore God;\*  
yes, let them rejoice ex- / ceedingly.  
O God, when you went out before Your / people,\*  
you, O God, provided from Your goodness / for the poor.  
Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with / benefits,\*  
the God of our sal- / vation!

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 51:1  
“Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out all my transgressions.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Almighty and everlasting God, who are always more ready to hear than we to pray and give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 329, LSB 607  
From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee Martin Luther



1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
My prayer let come before Thee.  
If Thou rememberest each misdeed,  
If each should have its rightful meed,  
Who may abide Thy presence?
2. Thy love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.
3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.



**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: **Believing Humility**

Mary's song, known as the "Magnificat," praises the Lord who graciously looked upon her lowly estate and chose her to be the mother of His Son. He is the One who scatters the proud, brings down the mighty and exults the humble. He fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty (Luke 1:46-55). As we see in the Scriptures, God will humble those who exalt themselves above Him in sinful pride and exult the lowly who know their humble standing before Him. Like Mary, we rejoice that the Lord has looked down upon us with favor in

Christ and by His grace believe that we are wholly dependent upon Him for all things.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:9-14** **Beggars All**

This parable is not told in the abstract, but to those, to anyone, who would trust in their own righteousness. This Pharisee sure fits the bill! His prayer before God is not really a prayer at all, but a boasting before God of what a "great guy" he is, certainly better than most. But God is not impressed, nor does He grade on a curve! Before God we deserve only His eternal judgment and condemnation. "We are all beggars," as Dr. Luther famously wrote. We are like the Canaanite women happy to eat the crumbs that fall from the masters' table (Matt. 15:21-28). We are the tax collector in this parable who can only plead before God, "Lord be merciful to me, a sinner" (v.13). *Thank You, O Lord, for Your mercy in Christ Jesus for poor sinners like me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Ps 119, eleventh part (KAPH v81-88)** **My Soul Longs for Your Salvation**

A beautiful aspect of the Psalter is its sheer honesty before the Lord. The Psalmist is not afraid to call upon the Lord and pour out his heart before Him. Even here in this magnificent wisdom song, the Psalmist asks, "How long must your servant endure?" (v. 84). "When will you comfort me?" (v. 82). "When will you judge those who persecute me?" (v.85). "I have become like a wineskin in the smoke" (v. 83). That is, he has become unattractive and useless, forgotten and discarded by men and battered by his enemies. Yet, his hope is not men, nor in his life in this world. His hope is in the Word of the Lord and his soul longs for Yahweh's salvation because He alone is strong to save. *O Lord, let me take comfort in Your steadfast love that gives me life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:1-10** **His Grace is Not in Vain**

If Christ is not raised from the dead, nothing matters and everything is futile! If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith and the apostolic preaching of the Gospel is in vain! "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20). Your faith, the apostle's preaching, and God's grace toward you is not in vain! Christ bled, died and rose for an unworthy apostle who persecuted His Church and He bled, died and rose for every unworthy sinner born of Adam. Rejoice and give humble thanks to the One who died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures (v.3). His grace for Saint Paul, for you, for me, is not in vain! *O Lord, we give thanks for Your grace in Christ Jesus that is never in vain. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **2 Samuel 22:21-29** **David's Song of Deliverance**

King David's claims of righteousness, cleanness, and blamelessness before God might seem a bit odd, even fallacious or outlandish to anyone who knows David's past sins (1 Kings 5:15). But David is not claiming a self-righteousness that saves. He is speaking as a repentant sinner who has sought to walk in the ways and commandments of Yahweh. David knows that it is only by Yahweh's "steadfast love" and "abundant mercy" that he is cleansed from his sin (Ps. 51:1-2). David rejoices that it is Yahweh's righteousness that makes him righteous and blameless (Ps. 24:5). David rejoices that Yahweh lifts up and saves those who put their trust in Him and walk in His ways. *O Lord, let my trust be in You that I too may walk in Your ways. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 22:24-30** **Greatness in the Kingdom - Festival of St. Bartholomew, Apostle**

It is quite astounding that a dispute over greatness broke out among the disciples around the Lord's Table, especially during the Last Supper! Were they completely tone-deaf? Clearly, they misunderstood the nature of God's Kingdom and the mission of the One who was serving them. Jesus is about to show them the ultimate greatness by His utter lowliness. His suffering and death will make these poor sinners worthy to enter the Kingdom and sit at His Table. Called, gathered, forgiven, and sanctified by Jesus' blood and righteousness, these disciples will be sent to proclaim the Gospel and by way of the cross would learn the way of greatness in the Kingdom. *O Lord, thank You for Your grace and mercy to all who misunderstand true greatness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 10:4-18** **The Pure Gift and Essence of Saving Faith**

St. Paul captures the essence of saving faith here in Romans 10; the one who confesses and believes in Christ Jesus whom God raised from the dead will be saved (v. 9). This saving faith comes as a pure gift by way of the preached Word of God. No one seeks it out, ascends to heaven or descends into the abyss to find this faith. "No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man," Jesus reminds us (Jn. 3:13). But this Jesus comes to you where His Word is faithfully preached and proclaimed. Where His Word is proclaimed, there the Holy Spirit is at work creating, sustaining, and galvanizing saving faith in God's people. *Thank You, O Lord, for faithful pastors preaching Christ crucified and risen in Your Church. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 147** **Praise the LORD!**

Teaching His disciples not to be anxious, Jesus rhetorically asks, "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matt. 6:26). In a similar manner, Psalm 147 teaches us to "praise the LORD," trust in His providential care and hope in His steadfast love (v. 11). The One who is the Creator of the universe, who sends rain upon the earth and feeds its animals is the same God who gathers and saves Israel, who looks upon your every need and delights to care for you. He saves you by His redeeming love in Christ and fills you with His peace that passes all understanding. Praise the LORD indeed! *O LORD, we praise You for all that You do for us. Amen.*

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