

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 85:5-6; 18:1-2, 27, 32, 49

The sorrows of Sheol sur- | rounded me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord,\*  
He heard my voice from His | temple.  
I will love You, O | Lord, my strength.\*  
The Lord is my rock and my | fortress.  
For You will save the humble | people,\*  
but will bring down | haughty looks.  
It is God who arms | me with strength,\*  
and makes my way | perfect.  
Therefore I will give thanks to | You, O Lord,\*  
and sing praises | to Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 23:1, 6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, 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  
**Salvation Unto Us Has Come**

TLH 377, LSB 555  
Paul Speratus



1. Salvation unto us has come  
By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom,  
They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.



**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: The Lord's Call to Repentance

Like all things of our God, repentance is a gift. It is important for us to see it as such. Repentance is not a work that we do, but it is a work that our Lord does in us. It is Law and it is Gospel. It is the terrifying proclamation of judgment and it is a comforting declaration of being made righteous in Christ. It is Moses and it is Jesus. It is the Ten Commandments and it is the cross. It is a Word of death and a Word of life. It is the threat of punishment and the giving of absolution. It is a drowning of the Old Adam and the raising of the New Adam. It is the fruit of the Garden and the fruit of the Vine. God calls you to repentance and then He gives repentance. He turns you.

He shows you your sin and then He forgives it all for the sake of Christ alone. Repentance is a gift!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16—The Same For All

"But I deserve more," the self-righteous says. This is where the Law gets us in trouble. Because, of course, that statement makes sense. But Jesus doesn't work by the Law. If He did, not a single laborer would receive even a penny at the end of the day. Instead, Jesus works by grace. He gives His gifts indiscriminately, almost foolishly. But they are His gifts to give. The only judgment is for those who despise the gifts of God and want something better. To those people God says, "The gifts are the same for everyone. If you think that unfair that's because it is." That is the thing about God's grace. It flies in the face of the Law. It is anything but fair. And the wonderful thing about it is that you get to receive the good gifts of your Lord based not upon your works, but upon His grace. That is more than you could ever deserve. Heavenly Father, grant me Your grace. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23—The Good Shepherd And The Stupid Sheep

The Good Shepherd leads His sheep. Truth be told, there is no other way! What sheep can protect itself from the dangers of this world? What sheep can guide itself to the safety of home and the place where food and drink is good and plentiful? What sheep can keep its own coat clean like snow, without spot or blemish. But the Good Shepherd can. The Good Shepherd does. For there is nothing else that He desires to do than be the Shepherd for His sheep. He guides and leads and loves, in this world and the next. He sends rain to fall on the just and unjust, provides food and drink to all in need; all the while offering forgiveness and life and salvation to all who believe. And we do not fear... well, yes we do. We are stupid sheep. But then, He is our Good Shepherd all the more. Good Shepherd, may goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5—The Life of a Christian

The life of an Israelite was the life of a Christian. The life of a Christian is a life of repentance. There is no other. Repentance is not a once in a lifetime thing. If it was, then we would all end up like the many Israelites overthrown in the wilderness. No, repentance is a daily, evenly hourly, gift. A gift given by our Lord: baptized into the same death and resurrection, eating the same food from heaven placed upon our tongues and drinking the same water of life springing from the side of the crucified Christ. Because of this we run the race knowing for certain that God will supply for us the prize at the end for the sake of His Son. When we run aimlessly or beat the air we are brought back through the preaching of the Word to drown our Old Adam once again and receive the gift of Christ in bread and wine. In short, we repent. Gracious Father, bring us to repentance. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10—Before The Womb

Jeremiah was chosen by God, before He was even formed in the womb, to speak words of judgment and salvation over the nations. These words spoke of and spoke to the coming Messiah; the very one who would consecrate all wombs as the hallowed place where the Lord creates life. Jesus comes in the flesh, every bit as fleshy as you, and Jeremiah foreshadows this. The Word made flesh is placed upon the fleshly mouth of Jeremiah so that he might speak words of salvation into your ears and mine. These are words of forgiveness and life through the death and resurrection of the Word made flesh come into this temporal world through the womb of His fleshly mother. To this very day this same Word is placed upon your lips (in bread and wine) making you holy and righteous and good. Most gracious Father, may the Word made flesh forever make me clean. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30—Forget Everything You Think You Know About This Parable

Jesus isn't giving out talents of ability here. He isn't concerned with you using your temporal gifts of throwing a ball or singing a song in order to pay Him back by the works of your hand. Instead, your Lord is concerned with the forgiveness of sins. When forgiveness is given it returns in full measure: all sins are forgiven, no matter the number. When that forgiveness is despised, when it is buried in the ground because you know that it's too good to be true, that God is a hard man who demands real sacrifice from you, well then, a hard man God is. When the gift of forgiveness is despised then only wrath and punishment is left. But when forgiveness is received in faith (in what we know God to be in Christ, not in what we think He is according to the Law) then that is a gift of the unimaginable riches of eternal life. Jesus, may I never despise Your forgiveness. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-34—The Unknown God

We cannot know God— not of ourselves, and not through creation. Creation and conscience teach us about God's goodness, power, and anger over sin, but nothing about His grace in Christ. This is the "Unknown God" worshiped in Athens. This is the God who speaks only Law and gives only condemnation. But the true God, the "known" God, has made Himself known in the person of Christ, His incarnation, birth, death, and resurrection. Jesus is God in the flesh. If we want to know God, know salvation, know the forgiveness of sins, we know them in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Human wisdom, fancy philosophies, creation, none of these things teach us of the kindness of Christ and the grace of God. Only Jesus. You no longer fear an unknown god. You know Christ, and He knows you. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us that we might receive the salvation won by Your cross. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114—It's All The Work Of The Lord

Israel walks out of Egypt like a conquering hero. Israel did nothing to earn this reputation. Soon she grumbles and complains and doubts and disbelieves; yet the sea parts and the heavens send bread and the rock spills water and the enemies are drowned and the nations cower all to the benefit of weak and unworthy Israel. It is all the work of the Lord. At His saving power and authority the nations bend the knee; heck even creation bends her immovable laws. So the enemies and even the Laws of Nature not only bow down to the Lord of the universe, but also to His unworthy Israel. What is His is theirs (whatever good He had) and what is theirs is His (whatever evil they had). The great exchange: life for death, forgiveness for sin, salvation for damnation. And it is all for you, unworthy you. Lord, make my unworthiness worthy. Amen.