

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 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV)

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

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.



“The Lord’s Call to Repentance”

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**

This week of Septuagesima is an invitation to prepare ourselves for the time of Lent. We are about seventy days from Easter and we should come to Lent in a few weeks' time prepared and ready for the journey which lies ahead. How do we prepare? Repentance and Faith. This week's readings provide the encouragement we need to take stock of and turn from our sin, to trust in Christ, and run with confidence the race that is set before us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:1-16 God is Not Fair**

Children are always measuring things for fairness. Pieces of cake must be equal, time spent with grandparents, presents, all must be given to each child in equal measure or they cry foul, regardless of the blessings received. Making the Old Adam proud, if they must have little or no blessings they would wish the same on the other children too, just to be fair. This thinking persists even in us. We want fairness, even in our religion. But the kingdom of God and its blessings are not fair in proportion to our work or piety – they are given according to the graciousness of our God. Our eyes are not upon our neighbor's gifts, but upon the Lord who graciously gives. *Lord, You are not stingy with Your gifts. Let me rejoice in them. Amen*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 23 You're a Sheep, Like it or Not**

The Lord is my Shepherd. Famous and comforting words, no doubt. When we say these words, we confess something unsettling about ourselves – that we are sheep. Sheep are not the most intelligent of God's creatures – skittish, prone to wander, and in constant need of care by shepherds lest they be killed or scattered by predators or their own stupidity. That's us. We need the care and nurture of our Good Shepherd Jesus and His guiding word lest we be taken in our sins and hounded by the evil one. Do you disregard the Word? Do you avoid church or pastoral care? Repent. Hear the voice of your Shepherd and abide by still waters and green pastures of His holy Word. *Lord, let me be Your sheep, that You would shepherd me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Striving for a Crown**

Paul disciplines his body so that he would not be disqualified after preaching to others. This discipline, whatever it may be, is certainly geared toward two things: first that he would repent and believe in Jesus and second that he would avoid sin. When we lack discipline in the Christian life we easily stumble back into old habits and sins. With a bad conscience we have difficulty hearing the gospel, that Christ has atoned for those sins and we are forgiven. Therefore Paul stays focused, disciplined, and temperate, so he would not lose his imperishable crown. Christian repentance and discipline are simply part of being a Christian. Embrace its goodness and trust in Christ's mercy. *Jesus give me the faith to contend and run for my crown. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 1:4-10 Despising God's Word**

When God calls Jeremiah to go and preach to the people, Jeremiah laments to God that he is but a young man, unable to speak so the people will listen. The word of God for Jeremiah must be supplemented, bolstered by outward appearances and eloquence. This is an opinion which the Lord does not share. God sends what is despised by the world to preach His Word, a young Timothy, a stuttering Moses, even Balaam's donkey. The Lord Jesus Himself is not so comely that we should desire Him. The Word of the Lord is a two-edged sword, effective, powerful to call to repentance, and heal with the balm of the Gospel – no matter who speaks it. *Lord, let me not despise speaking Your word myself or hearing it from Your servant, my pastor. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:14-30 Burying What God Gives**

The blessings which the Lord gives are meant to be used. The wicked servant buries the talent given him out of fear and unbelief. Such an unbelieving servant is like a talent buried and kept in the ground - good for nothing. God's gifts are to produce fruit for the kingdom. The word of God which you have heard, like the talent, is not to be buried in your heart never to see daylight, but is to be spread abroad in your life and conversation. Your words, money, influence, energy, prayers, are all talents which God intends to be used with Christian love for the good of your neighbor. If you have gifts (and you do) don't bury them. For in God's economy what you spend you never lose. *Lord, help me to give my talents, trusting in Your mercy. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:22-32 A Sign of Contradiction**

The word Simeon preaches to us is that not only will Jesus be a sign that is spoken against and opposed, but that the hidden contents of the heart are revealed by that opposition. Hostility and apathy toward the Lord of Life reveals that there is no life in that heart, only a soul in great need of the gospel. Naturally, Jesus is still an opposed sign as wicked men dismiss or undermine the Word of the Lord. Don't be surprised. Our God is a sign of contradiction. You will not make friends with this dying world by being a Christian. But it is Jesus Who reigns. It is He who forgives. He is the Head who sustains His body, the Church, so she may confess her heart as well – that He lives and shall come again in glory. *Lord, let Your servant depart in peace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 114 Creation's Lord**

Creation is subject to the Lord. We tend to think the laws of nature are immutable, like the Lord, but the laws of physics, time, and space are indeed the Lord's as well. He made them. He can change them if it suits Him. Notice though that when He does suspend the regular ordering of nature, as when He makes the Red Sea part or the Jordan pile up like a heap, He does so for the benefit of His people who escape their enemies. But also, in the case of the wedding at Cana, He suspends time and space for the sake of gladness and refreshment. He is not merely a practical God. Not even the law of death can bind Him. He overcomes it not by suspending it, but suffering it – for our sakes. *Thank You, Lord! Amen.*

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