

“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 98:1-2, 3-4**

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alle- | luia!*
 His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alle- |
 luia
 His right hand and His | holy arm*
 have gained Him the | victory.
 He has remembered His | mercy*
 and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel.
 All the ends | of the earth*
 have seen the salvation | of our God.
 Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth;*
 break forth in song, rejoice, and sing | praises.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 8:35-36**

The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Our merciful Father, the God who alone make minds of the faithful to be of one will, cause Your people to love what You command and to desire what You promise, that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through 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
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

TLH 387, LSB 556
 Martin Luther



1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 With exultation springing,
 And, with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
 Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
 How His right arm the victory won;
 Right dearly it hath cost Him.

4. But God beheld my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
 And, mindful of His mercies great,
 He planned my soul's salvation.
 A father's heart He turned to me,
 Sought my redemption fervently:
 He gave His dearest Treasure.

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 Proclaim the Truth

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The joy and light of the Lord's resurrection continues to enlighten our hearts and minds this week. The Scripture passages selected this week put before us the tremendous gifts of God for us. God gives us His Spirit, His righteousness, His deliverance, His freedom, His forgiveness, and His enduring promise of everlasting life with Him. God be praised!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15, The Advantage of Jesus Departure

The night before the crucifixion Jesus tells His disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away." How could that possibly be the case? What could be better than having Jesus there with them? "If I depart, I will send Him to you." Who? The Holy Spirit, here called the *Parakletos* in Greek, the Comforter, the Helper, or (best) the Advocate who will bring about faith in your heart and peace in your conscience. He will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and He will guide the church into all truth. This is the advantage, and we have it. We are born of water and the Spirit, and Jesus has sent the gift of the holy Spirit to all who are baptized. *O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82, God among the gods

God stands among the gods. There is only one God: the Holy and blessed Trinity. But there are plenty who exalt themselves, who live like they are gods, who live by power and trample on the poor and needy. There are many who cast aside God's law and live like they matter most. This Psalm is a prayer for deliverance from these false gods, and brings the assurance that our God, the true God, will help. "Arise, O God, judge the earth. You shall inherit the nations" (Psalm 82:8). Jesus will not be overthrown. His is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. In His kingdom there is nothing to fear. *Lord Jesus Christ, deliver us from all evil of body and soul, now and forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21, Brought forth by the Word

The Christian has a second birth. The first birth is of the flesh, but the second birth is of the Word. "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures." When we hear and believe the "implanted word, which is able to save our souls," a new life is begun. Washed with the water and the word, we no longer belong to sin, death, and the devil. We belong to God. We belong to righteousness and life. We belong to the light and to truth. We are adopted into His family. And note this: because this new life comes about by hearing the word, it is shaped by being "quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger." *O Holy Spirit, open our ears to hear Your Word and cling to Your live-giving promises. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6, The Song of the End of God's Anger

What a hymn Isaiah teaches is to sing to God: "Though you were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me!" How is God's anger turned away? Certainly not through our efforts, through our attempts to make it right, through our goodness or good works. No. That could never be enough. God's anger is turned away through the suffering and death of Christ. The cross is the turning point where the wrath of God is poured out on the Lamb of God, and not on the sinners who earned it. God is not our destruction; He is our salvation. We will trust and not be afraid. He has done excellent things! *O LORD, I praise You. You were angry with me, but Your anger was turned away, and You comfort me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36, The Son's Freedom

The devil tempts us to think that breaking God's Law is like breaking out of prison. "His commands are like chains, and sin is freedom." The devil promises liberty while making us slaves of corruption, "for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage," (2 Peter 2:19). Our flesh chains us to our lusts and wicked desires. Jesus says, "Whoever commits a sin is a slave to sin." But the Truth will set us free. "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Instead of the slavery to sin, death, and the devil, Jesus is our freedom, our forgiveness, our life, and our salvation. *O Son, set us free, and we will be free indeed. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, One Died for All

What a great exchange! The sinless One bears our sins so that we might have the righteousness of God. The One who is Life tastes our death so that we could have life eternal. The One who is strong to save is made weak so that we would stand forever. Christ is forsaken by God so that we would never be abandoned or forgotten. By His stripes we are healed. God be praised! Our trespasses are imputed to Him, not to us! His holiness and perfection are given to us as a gift. He is the First-fruits, and we are part of His New Creation and eternal kingdom. *O Lord we thank You for bearing our sin, and granting us Your righteousness. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126, Out with Tears, In with Joy

The Lord turns things around, and this Psalm praises Him for it. Sowing with tears; reaping with joy. Going forth with weeping; returning rejoicing. He brings us out of captivity. He delivers from bondage. He transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the light of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Egypt is behind us. Babylon is long ago. The grave is broken: its power spoiled. Jesus' death and resurrection are our deliverance, and it fills our mouths with laughter and sets our tongue to song. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! *O Lord Jesus, thank You for turning things around, for bringing us through this life to life eternal. Amen.*

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