



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 95:6-7, 1-4**

O come, let us worship and / bow down:*
 let us kneel before the Lord our / Maker.
 For He is our God; and we are the people of his / pasture,*
 and the sheep / of His hand.
 Oh come, let us sing / to the Lord!*

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our sal- / vation.
 Let us come before His presence with thanks- / giving;*

let us shout joyfully to / Him with psalms.
 For the Lord is the / great God,*
 and the great King a- / bove all gods.
 In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;*

the heights of the hills are His / also.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Colossians 1:11-13a**

“May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; 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
In the Midst of Earthly Life

TLH 590, LSB 755
 Martin Luther



1. In the midst of earthly life
 Snares of death surround us;
 Who shall help us in the strife
 Lest the Foe confound us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only.
 We mourn that we have greatly erred,
 That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
 Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
 Save us lest we perish
 In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

3. In the midst of utter woe
 All our sins oppress us,
 Where shall we for refuge go,
 Where for grace to bless us?
 To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.
 Thy precious blood was shed to win
 Full atonement for our sin.
 Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
 Save us lest we perish
 In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

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 Dormition of Believers**

Thanksgiving is a secular holiday Christians can really get behind. Why not? The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He is the Boss of everything. He has set His church to be a light among all the nations. Besides all that, secular society has no problem hijacking good Christian Holy-Days and wrangling them to abominable ends. We might as well take what is crass and profane and make it good, right and holy. Give thanks to the Lord for all His good gifts toward you. First, He supports and sustains your body. Next, he has given you His Christ.

Finally, His Holy Spirit drives that Word of God into your heart and mind in the church. He is truly a good gift-giver to you.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:18-26: Jesus Makes Unclean Things Clean**

The Pharisees were very concerned about keeping the law. One major aspect of the law is cleanliness. Bleeding women and dead girls are unclean. According to the law, anyone who touched them fell out of a right relationship with God. But Jesus touches unclean things and makes them clean. He is the Son of God with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has the power to reverse the curse of the law. For the power of sin is the law, as St. Paul would later say. In Jesus, all things are made right. The faith and trust of these women is justifying. They have placed their trust, love, and fear in the right place. Therefore, they are right with God. *Dear Lord, increase my faith in Your Son and His work to make me clean and right. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 125: The Lord Surrounds His People**

God wants what is good for His people. He sets up a hedge of protection around them. He gives them His Word and Promises. He gives concrete signs and tokens of His grace and favor for us in, with, and under the water, wine, and bread. He even constructs embassies of His Kingdom for us, His people, to rest, sing, rejoice and receive all the treasures and securities of His Will and Work. God clearly wants what is good for us, His people. *O Lord, help us resist the temptation of believing You desire our evil and not our good. Help us, this day, to see and use the manifold gifts You impart and rest in the resolute protections You have provided for us in Your Church. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Colossians 1:9-14: Giving Thanks for God's Work**

In this time of thanksgiving these words from St. Paul drive our eyes to the great gift of salvation which God the Father has bestowed. In the second article of the Creed, God drives the Work and Word of Jesus Christ deeper into our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. He does this by His Holy Spirit, Who drives the proclamation of Jesus Christ in the Church, by His called Ministers, such as Epaphras. God reveals, along with St. Paul, that His Will is for His Christians to grow in faith and love toward God, but also toward each other. This Spiritual growth in wisdom and understanding is the increasing sanctity of our daily lives as the Work of God in Christ overshadows everything. *Father, drive Your Word into my heart and mine more. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 51:9-16: Peace Through God's Strength**

Attaining peace through projecting strength is a foreign policy for many nations. Our peace is God's strength. This proclamation in Isaiah comes to a king and nation who were increasingly seeking the ways of the world, rather than the ways of God. Hezekiah was seeking treaties with pagans for security, rather than relying on God and His promises. However, we must remember, the nations will always rage and totter. Our peace is not predicated upon the nation. Our peace is predicated upon God's right arm and His strength. After all, He is the One who dries up seas and wipes away stars from their places. More than this, He has claimed us as His people. *O Lord, in the changes and chances of this world, help me to be at peace in Your strength. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 12:13-21: Avarice Leads to Dissatisfaction and Destruction**

Avarice is a spiritual sickness and addiction. It starts small, as with most addictions and sicknesses. But soon we are tearing down barns. Money and possessions are convenient and promising gods to grant carnal security. This is why houses are large and the storage unit market is booming. In this week of Thanksgiving let us consider where our true joys and riches are found. Joy and richness are attendant gifts flowing God's grace that has been freely given to us in Christ. *O Lord, lead me away from the temptations of money and possessions. Help me to be less satisfied and secure in these, and find all my satisfaction and love in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 5:1-10: Christian Hope and Courage**

Our lives as Christians are not aimless. We are pressing toward a goal. That goal is the resurrection. We know that this earthly tent is being destroyed. Yet, God has promised us a home not made with hands, but is eternal in the heavens. Our hope gives us courage in the midst of our pilgrimage. We groan because of the toil. But we are of good courage because resurrection is our goal. We must not get wrapped up in the confused aims of this world. They don't end well. You might get a bigger barn, but little else. Our eyes and aims, hearts and souls endure this brief affliction due to the weight of eternal glory given to us by God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He is our ground. He is our goal. *God, fix my eyes on Jesus and give me courage. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 18: A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

God wants what is good for His people. One of those things is their protection. He is our rock and fortress. He delivers us from death and destruction. His deliverance is spiritual as well as physical. This is why He directs us to the 4th commandment. We must listen to our parents so that our lives are good in the land. God wants what is good for us in our daily lives. Because of this He stands with us against our temporal enemies. This is Grace upon Grace. We will not always be oppressed. We will not always be beaten down. Sometimes God grants us temporal physical successes from the hands of those who hate us. When this happens, it reminds us of our eternal and lasting deliverance. *O Lord, be my rock and refuge, and grant me victory over evil. Amen.*

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