

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Prayer of Azariah 1:4, 7, 20, 19; Psalm 48:1, 9-11

The Lord is righteous in all His / works toward us,*
for we have not obeyed His com- / mandments.
Glorify Your / Name, O Lord:*
and deal with us according to Your great / mercy.
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
in the midst of Your / temple.
According to Your / name, O God,*
so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth;
Your right hand is full of / righteousness.*
Let Mount Zion rejoice, Because of Your / judgments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 8:13

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant, we implore You, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord 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
Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness

TLH 305, LSB 636
Johann Franck



1. Soul, adorn thyself with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto Him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous supper founded.
High o'er all the heavens He reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

8. Lord, by love and mercy driven
Thou hast left Thy throne in heaven
On the cross for us to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Thy blood in sadness.
By this blood, redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise Thee with thanksgiving.

7. Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring, --
At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Thy glory, given.



“Resisting the Flesh at Home in the World”

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: **Resisting the Flesh at Home in the World**

The flesh is frighteningly powerful in its urges, fixations, and obsessions. It desires men's praise. It desires our neighbor's wildly successful career, spouse, and vacation home. Most often, the flesh wants to indulge itself in sloth because of its bored indifference with all things good and sacred. When our passions run wild through our hearts, our desires become chains that enslave our every waking moment. The flesh is never sated. It always demands more. How can we be set free? The Lord contends against the flesh with his Holy Spirit. He creates new hearts within us. He crucifies our flesh and teaches us to resist with prayer in Jesus' name.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 22:1-14 "Called and Chosen"**

You're invited to the wedding feast for Christ and His Church. Others have been invited. Instead of rejoicing at the invitation, they went back to work at their farms and businesses. Some were so offended by the invitation that they seized and killed the messengers. Don't despise the invitation when it comes, dear Saints. Seize hold of the summons to eat at the Son's table with faith and joy. You don't deserve to be invited. Neither do your concerns over farms and businesses compare to what awaits you in the Father's house. Put on the wedding garment of baptism and faith. Go to church every week and feast on the body and blood of your Lord. Rejoice! You have been called and chosen for eternal life. *Grant me joy in Your house, O Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:1-9 "The Harvest and Its Laborers"**

The Lord's messengers have a hard task. Instead of worrying about money, food, and other supplies, Jesus commands them to "carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road." How are they going to eat? What will they wear? Before the Lord's messengers proclaim, "The Kingdom of God has come near you," they themselves must trust in the Lord's mercy. Jesus' messengers aren't mercenaries. They're not in it for the money. They proclaim the joy they themselves know from being forgiven by Jesus' saving blood. Pray for your pastor. Make sure his needs are supplied. Tell him to abandon worry and trust in the Lord who provides. *Grant my pastor faith to preach the Gospel without fearing this world. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 5:15-21 "The Days Are Evil"**

The devil wants you to obsess over missing out on the world's pleasures and joys. The unbelievers, the devil argues, are having fun. "They have friends. They're never bothered by a guilty conscience since there's no God, sin, or judgment. So why not indulge the flesh?" This is folly. Do you think the unbelievers know a moment of peace in their consciences? Do you think their souls have found rest in their flesh? Make wise use of your time. Flee from the devil's temptations. Fill yourself with the Holy Spirit by hearing the Word at church. Take time to study your Bible. Pray often with thanksgiving. Submit to your neighbors out of reverence for Christ. *O Lord, grant me to sojourn in this world with hope in the world to come. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 65:1, 2 "Setting Our Own Tables"**

The Lord sends His messengers into our churches and homes. By written invitation and through their pleading voices the Lord lays bare His heart. He wants to bless us. He wants to invite us into His own house as if we are members of His holy family. Despite the heartfelt entities, our flesh prefers to set its tables in honor of self-earned Fortune and self-wrought Destiny (vs. 11). God be praised that His messengers bear not only gentle invitations, but stern warnings against rejecting the Lord's generosity. Tables made in our own honor or in the honor of false gods dishonors the Lord. It brings wrath and judgment. Be warned. Fear God. Seek favor in the Lord's eyes through His Son's sacrifice. *O Lord, shelter me in Your courts for Christ's sake. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 21:28-44 "Doing the Will of the Father"**

Both parables were spoken to the hard-hearted Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, and members of the Sanhedrin during Holy Week as they were plotting to take Jesus' life. As Abraham's descendants, they had inherited the promises of Jesus' coming. But they hardened their hearts against Him and despised His Word. What the religious experts wouldn't receive, the tax collectors and prostitutes received with joy. Jesus didn't come to affirm their sins. He came to forgive them and to renew their hearts with the gifts of His Spirit. They, along with the Gentiles, are the "other tenants" that will be entrusted with the Lord's vineyard and will be welcomed into God's kingdom. *Give us repentant hearts, O Lord, that cling to Jesus alone for salvation. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 11:25-32 "Beloved for the Sake of their Forefathers"**

Though many Gentiles welcomed the Gospel with open hearts, many of the Jews would not accept that Jesus is their Messiah, the Holy One of Israel Who made atonement for the sin of the whole world. What becomes of the many promises of blessing given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? What becomes of their calling to be God's own people? Their unfaithfulness does not nullify God's favor. When they hear and believe, God's favor rests upon them. Do not think this text confirms millennialistic ideas about a last-minute, mass conversion of the Jews. Rather it promises that as the Gentiles are being brought into salvation, so are a number of the Israelites. *O Lord, give Your Word power to work repentance and faith among both Jews and Gentiles. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 57 "For in You My Soul Takes Refuge"**

Using your Bible's cross reference, you'll discover the context is from David's flight to escape Saul in the cave of Adullam in 1 Samuel 22. The Holy Spirit has recorded David's prayer as a model for your own prayers in times of distress. See how quickly David casts himself on the Lord's mercy! Isn't he worried that the Lord holds some sin against him? Isn't he worried that the Lord won't hear him? Not at all. He is certain of the Lord's kindness. The Lord has promised him great things. The Lord doesn't lie. You also should trust in what the Lord has spoken to you. Jesus died for you. You are God's own child. God will bless you in this world and give you eternal life in the world to come. *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Amen.*

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