

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 46:7, 2, 4-6, 10

The Lord of hosts is / with us;*
the God of Jacob is our / refuge.
Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth / be removed,*
and though the mountains be carried into the midst / of the sea.
There is a river whose streams shall make glad the ci- / ty of God,*
the holy place of the tabernacle of the / Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall / not be moved;*
God shall help her, just at the / break of dawn.
The nations raged, the king- / doms were moved;*
He uttered His voice, the earth / melted.
Be still, and know that / I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 5:10 NKJV

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same 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
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656
Martin Luther



1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On Earth is not his equal.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.

This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.



“The Reformation of the Church of Christ”

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 Reformation of the Church of Christ

Reformations happen when God calls His people to repentance and back to His Word. When we think of 'Reformation,' we usually think of what God accomplished in the 16th century. But reformation has been going on in Christ's Church since the beginning and will continue as long as Christ delays His second coming. As you meditate on God's word this week, remember first, how God continually calls His people back to His word and promises and away from self-chosen forms of righteousness, and second, that this faithfulness brings with it hostility from this fallen world.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6, 7 Good News and Angels

Angels bring messages. In fact that is what their name means, "messenger". The news of the birth of Christ was announced to Mary through an angel. Joseph was comforted in his fears by an angel. Shepherds abiding in fields heard the heavenly praise at our Lord's birth and amazingly, the women heard the "He is not here!" on Easter Sunday. So it seems that angels are always there proclaiming good news at times of great significance. So it is even now. An angel, Johns says, proclaims the everlasting gospel to every nation. Whether this is an angel of God's created heavenly order or any ordinary messenger of the gospel who preaches Jesus Christ, God delights in it. And we do too. *Lord, thank you for your messengers of the Gospel. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 Hezekiah's Reformation

King Ahaz was an evil king who devoted himself not to the God of the Bible, but to the idols and demons of this world. His son Hezekiah was different. From a young age he was devoted to the Lord his God by faith. And so when he came to the throne, he arranged to have the temple cleansed, the rubbish thrown out of it, and the worship of the Lord restored. Hezekiah's reformation was, like any Godly reformation, one of repentance for sins and restoration of right doctrine from the Bible. This week, as we celebrate God's work in calling His Church to repentance and faith 500 years ago, we remember that God has been doing this for a very long time, and will only continue to do so by His Word. *Lord, bring a reformation to us, that we too may live. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 Suffering for Reformation

John the Baptist was the last in a long line of prophets who, though sent by God to preach His word and point people to the righteousness of faith, were denounced, mistreated, and even killed. The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, says our Lord, and the violent take it by force. This will always be true. Those who do not want to hear the word of the Lord, those who prefer their own way, who do not listen to the Bible alone, will inflict violence on the kingdom of heaven. But those who trust in the word of the Lord - Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Athanasius, Augustine, Luther, Walther, and every godly Christian - they have ears to hear, are forgiven by grace, and are the blessed of the Lord. *Jesus give to me ears to hear! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 All Saints

A hymn that most English-speaking Christians once knew (and thankfully included in Lutheran Service Book #661) but is sadly now not often sung by their English-speaking descendants is "The Son of God Goes Forth to War". In verse four it says of the saints now in glory, "*They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n through peril, toil, and pain; O God to us may grace be giv'n to follow in their train!*" Jesus Himself says of the saints, the blessed of whom He speaks in the beatitudes, that they will be reviled, persecuted, and slandered for His sake. Yet in the end, He says that they too are blessed and great is their reward. Lord Jesus, peril, toil, and pain is the lot of the Church, and yet we too, are blessed for Your sake. *Keep us faithful as those who came before us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 Zeal for Your House

Jesus is eaten up, consumed by zeal for His Father's house. It is a house dedicated to be YHWH's dwelling place, the meeting place between God and man, the place where prayers are offered and sacrifices point to the final end-time Sacrifice for the sins of the world. And here in this place there are those turning a profit, taking advantage of God's people, and desecrating the court of the Gentiles which is to be used by the nations for prayer to the God of the Hebrews. And so Jesus drives them out. That which is holy will not be given to dogs. May the Lord grant us a righteous zeal for godly doctrine and sound theology, not that we may cause violence, but pave the way for righteous worship, prayer, and teaching. *Lord, give us Your blessed, saving doctrine. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21 For Sinners

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! (Gal. 3:17 NKJV). Paul here says something remarkable (as he usually does) namely, that those who seek the righteousness of justification in Christ, are sinners. Full stop. He says something like it elsewhere where he calls himself the chief of sinners. What does this mean? That Christ is come for sinners. Our righteousness or standing before the Father is not dependent on the works of the moral law or the ceremonial law, but solely on the righteousness that is granted to faith. Like Paul, you are a sinner. Take comfort then that Christ is come for sinners. *Lord, have mercy on me a sinner! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 48 The Glory of Zion

The psalmist praises the glory of Jerusalem, the city of the great king - her beauty, her heights, the Temple, the refuge she offers in her towers and ramparts. It is worthy of eternal song. But there's just one problem: Jerusalem, the city, does not look like this. Pulled apart by factions and wars and bombs for millennia, the earthly Jerusalem does not correspond with the Eternal Zion of which we sing here. So what are we talking about? We are singing of the Zion of God's Church, the Eternal Jerusalem with the Temple in Her midst, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. The psalmist confesses at the end "for this is God....forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death." *Lord God, I walk about Zion and give You glory for Your Holy Church. Amen.*

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