



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16**

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.*
 He has redeemed my / soul in peace.
 Cast your burden / on the Lord,*
 and He shall sus- / tain you.
 Give ear to my / prayer, O God,*
 and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.
 My heart is severely pained with- / in me,*
 and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.
 Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,*
 and horror has over- / whelmed me.
 I will pray, and / cry aloud,*
 and the Lord shall / save me.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Corinthians 12:3**

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

TLH 1, LSB 901
 Benjamin Schmolk



1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee,
 Come Thou also unto me;
 Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heaven on earth must be.
 To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
 Let it be Thy temple now!

3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,
 Here Thy seed is duly sown;
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.

4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
 Howsoever temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
 As my guiding star through life,
 As my comfort in my strife.

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 Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

The Lord comes to us every day in His Word to teach us concerning Himself. He teaches us to learn and rejoice in these words. These words deliver the faith to us by which we confess His Name for our salvation. These words keep us in the Lord's Temple worshipping Him to all eternity. They give us the gift of Jesus Himself, and His work of atonement for our sake. They create in us a clean heart. And they deliver us from our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Therefore we cling to God's Word as if our lives depended upon it. It does.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48 – Jesus Teaches in His House

“And He was teaching daily in the temple.” That's where we find the Lord in this text. It's where He is in the beginning of Luke also when He's “lost” by His parents. It's where He continues to be according to His promise for us each time we gather. He comes day by day, teaching us over and over of our sin and our need of redemption, and also of His work of redemption through His death and resurrection for our sake. Luther reminds us in the Large Catechism (preface), He never tires of teaching these things to us, for He knows better than we do that these words give us eternal life. *Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for teaching us Your Word daily, we pray that we would always hear them with joy and confidence. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80 – Words that Give Everything

Psalm 119 gives us a multitude of descriptions of the Lord's Word, and it also ties those descriptions with how we ought to receive that Word. The Lord's Word is His *commandments*, His *word*, His *rules*, His *steadfast love*, His *promise*, His *mercy*, His *law*, His *precepts*, His *testimonies*, His *statutes*. It is everything we need in this life. Therefore, these words bring us understanding and learning, rejoicing and hope, comfort, life, knowledge, and declare us to be blameless before Him. These words are our most precious possession, because these words give us Jesus Himself. *Blessed Lord, as you have given me everything in Your Word, help me to trust in it above all things, and to come to it for all truth and life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 – Gifts of the Lips and Hands

The Holy Spirit gives us many gifts, and we remember that they are for two purposes: our salvation and our neighbors benefit. We are given the gift of the confession of Christ: “Jesus is Lord” by the Holy Spirit. With our mouth we confess and are saved. Then we are given gifts: service, activities, all by the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God, and these are given “for the common good.” Namely, for our doing good works for others. Included in this, however, is also our confession. Both the works of our hands and the confession of our lips service our neighbor, that they too would be saved. *Lord, keep my lips pure, and my hands working in Your service for the good of my neighbor. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-7 – Hearing God's Word

Over and over, God exhorts us to “hear”. Jeremiah does this to those who would come to worship the Lord, those who have gathered at His temple. He warns us against a failure to repent of our sins, but also of listening to the false prophets, who are also in the temple, but who use the temple for their own gain, saying “this is the temple of the Lord...” These are those who send the Israelites and us after other gods who, instead of brining us life, do us only harm, and bring death. But the Lord also promises that in hearing His Word rightly, that we are given to dwell in His temple, a promise He gives also for the last day, where we will dwell for eternity. *Lord God, help me to hear Your Word and so dwell in your holy temple for eternity. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:16-24 – Mighty Deeds for Us and to Us

Jesus pronounces woes upon Chorazin, Besthaida, and Capernaum. They have not only rejected the deeds of the Lord, but also His Word. They have become worse than Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom, who were given much less than these cities. And while we hear these woes as a warning to us also, we can also rejoice. We have the Word of God, and we have the gifts of Baptism, Absolution, and Altar which deliver to us the benefit of the mighty works done by our Lord Jesus on the cross and in His resurrection. These, indeed, are the mightiest deeds ever done, and they are given to us. *Holy Lord, we thank You for Your Word and Sacraments, which give us Jesus, and His death and resurrection for us. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15 – The God Who Speaks

“Today if you hear His voice.” Today, if you hear the Scriptures. Today if you hear God's Word. We are reminded here that hearing God is nothing other than hearing the Bible. It's common to think that if we want to know what God has to say to us we need to sit in meditation by ourselves, or look for revelations within nature or society. To do so would be to harden our hearts to His Word. God tells us that we are to look no other place than to His Word where the Holy Spirit gives us every blessing, including the gift of a clean heart, which does not seek after other gods, but trusts solely in Him, the God who speaks. *Lord, keep me from chasing after other words apart from Your revealed Scriptures. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 – Relying on God's Mercy

In this Psalm David teaches us to rely on the mercy, faithfulness, and righteousness of the Lord. While we, on our own, have no good in ourselves, and cannot stand righteous before God, we pray that God would not enter into judgment with us. We pray this on account of the sacrifice of Christ whom the Father has entered into judgment with for our sake. In the suffering of Jesus the wrath of God is poured out so that we would receive mercy. Jesus was faithful to God and His Word and lived in righteousness and holiness so that we would be spared from our enemies. By the cross God cuts off our enemies and destroys our adversaries, rescuing us eternally. *Holy Lord, in Your mercy, keep me steadfast in true faith to You, trusting Your work for me. Amen.*

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