

“The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit”



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 **The Benedictus, Luke 1:68**

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people.”

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 Schmolck



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| <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 5-11, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

The highest form of worship is the worship of faith, which receives God's gifts and trusts in Him. From this, flows true confessions, good works, and love for the neighbor. Where sinners are justified by faith, they have peace with God. Christ's visitation to Jerusalem was to bring them—and all the world—peace through the forgiveness of sins. He offered the true Divine Service, the culmination and true source of the Temple's mediating work, in His shed blood. And thus "repentance for the forgiveness of sins is to be preached in His Name to all the world, beginning at Jerusalem."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48—The Day of Visitation

Many visitors came to Jerusalem, the ironically named city. The prophets of the Lord they abused and killed. The foreign powers and pagan gods they received with open arms and trust. The final visitation was about to come upon them: Emperor Titus with his Roman troops. But the penultimate visitation was the true visitation. Here the Lord came in the flesh not to make war but to bring what truly makes for peace: His own blood. It is the sufficient sacrifice upon which all other prayers are to be offered and heard. *Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, for You have visited and redeemed Your people. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80—Steadfast Mercy in the Lord's Word

The Lord has created us not for destruction but for His mercy. When He afflicts His own, it is always in faithfulness and for our good. His wrath endures a short time; His mercy endures forever. In the midst of affliction, Christians turn again to the Word and promises of God. When faith is tested, it endures by clinging to what cannot be broken. And those who fear God are constantly astounded and encouraged at the sight of their fellow Christians enduring suffering. They know also that the Word of the Lord is sure. *Let my heart rest in Your Word, Lord, when sin, suffering, and the world are seeking my shame. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11—The Spirit's Harmonious Voice

Idols have mouths, but they speak not. And they that make them are like unto them. Christianity is not a quiet religion. We confess with our mouths what we believe in our hearts. And as often as we can, we sing. Corinth's congregation had produced a cacophony of sound, all of their gifts fighting against one another—even so as to call down curses. Can the body of Christ curse its own members? Hardly! Rather, the Spirit who breathes faith into dead sinners also intends every good gift for the benefit of the whole body. Our song is to be harmonious. *Lord, with Your gifts grant us also humility. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-7—Using God's Name as a Cover for Evil

God delights in truth in the inward being—and He judges the heart, not the outward appearance. Thus it is particularly dangerous to use God's good Word and Name to "sanctify" our iniquity. Israel was "trusting" in the Temple—not because they sought the forgiveness and holy presence it imparted, but because they believed it would protect them for their own sakes. We are able to call upon God to "bless" what He forbids also, and woe to us for that. Rather, let us hear God's Word and keep it, that His blessing may not be a lie upon us. *Lord, preserve Your Word from all deceptive uses. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matt 11:16-24—The Wisdom of Law & Gospel

Cynicism is a strong tool of the Devil. It mocks the Holy Spirit, much like Pilate did Christ: "What is truth?" The signs of Christ were mighty, but they gained Him no worship from the self-satisfied. Neither John's ascetic style nor Christ's earthy manner could reach them. They were not children of wisdom, but fools born of Satan. Repentance is always the call of a prophet, whether eating or fasting. The dirge of the Law's accusation must cause us to mourn our sin—just as surely as the flute of the Gospel's forgiveness must make us dance. *Lord, give us ears to hear. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15—Today

By a trick (or maybe on purpose), the Venite omits the second half of Psalm 95—quoted in Hebrews. We prefer lambs and happiness to warnings. But we need this warning. It was God's own chosen people who were hardened and refused to hear God's Word or enter His rest. The Gospel is always preached "today." The call to repentance is continual. Faith, likewise, is continual. We do not hear once and go our way; we abide in His Word, and thus are His disciples. As long as it is "today," so often do we need to take heed to the voice of the living God. *Lord, preserve me from an evil, unbelieving heart. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143—Your Righteousness

The presence of enemies makes us cry out for help, but on what basis should we plead? We throw ourselves always on the mercy of God in Christ, which means we plead not our own righteousness but His. We ask God to enter into judgment with us and for us only by Jesus' blood. In this we have righteousness that brings us out of trouble. In it we have a Name that can be invoked. In it we have the Lord's gracious face and steadfast love, and a firm handhold for faith. Stretch out the hand of faith to grasp God in His righteousness, not our own. *Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Amen.*

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