

“The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 28:8-9, 1-2, 7**

The Lord / is their strength,*
 and He is the saving refuge of His a- / nointed.
 Save Your people, and bless Your in- / heritance;*
 shepherd them also, and bear them up for- / ever.
 To You I will cry, O / Lord my Rock:*
 do not be si- / lent to me,
 lest, if You are si- / lent to me,*
 I become like those who go down / to the pit.
 Hear the voice of my supplications when I / cry to You,*
 when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctu- / ary.
 The Lord is my strength / and my shield:*
 my heart trusted in Him, and / I am helped.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord of all power and might, the Author and Giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

TLH 369, LSB 562
 Lazarus Spengler



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| <p>1. All mankind fell in Adam's fall, One common sin infects them all; From sire to son the bane descends, And over all the curse impends.</p> <p>2. Through all man's powers corruption creeps And him in dreadful bondage keeps; In guilt he draws his infant breath And reaps its fruits of woe and death.</p> | <p>5. As by one man all mankind fell And, born in sin, was doomed to hell, So by one Man, who took our place, We all received the gift of grace.</p> <p>6. We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours, New light, new hope, new strength, new powers: May grace our every way attend Until we reach our journey's end!</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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace

The Lord demands perfection from us. He gives us His Law to show us what that perfection looks like and He teaches us that the demands of the Law never end. But the Law is only a part of the Lord's speaking to us. He also gives us the wonderful promises of eternal life, salvation, and mercy in His Word. God attaches these words to the means of grace and gives them to the church so that we may be saved through His gracious working. At His Word, we are made into new creations, the great workmanship of God, who love the Lord's Word and who serve our neighbors in our vocations.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:20-26 The Righteousness of Jesus

"Unless your righteousness exceeds...you will never enter heaven." Jesus doesn't mince words. He's a fiery preacher of the Law. He shows that if we want to be considered righteous according to the Law then we must meet its stringent demands in all areas. "You shall not murder" becomes so much more than simply a physical killing of my neighbor: it now also governs my anger. Have I been angry with my neighbor? Ever? Then I am guilty, unrighteous according to the Law. But Jesus is righteous. The only one ever. And that righteousness of Jesus is given to you in your baptism, where you are clothed with Him. *Dear Jesus, forgive my anger. Help me to love my neighbor and to serve him in all my vocations. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:41-48 Faith Creating Words

The Lord teaches us to pray to always have with us steadfast love, salvation, the word of truth, etc. but then reminds us that this is connected to our trust, hope, and delight in the Lord's Word. These two must always go together. The Word of God gives us our faith. These words are planted deep into our hearts and minds in hearing the scriptures, meditating upon them day and night, rejoicing in the preaching of the church, and receiving the sacraments. These same words create, nourish, and sustain our faith and cause us to rejoice more and more in them. This is never perfect in this life, but we continue to strive toward that end. *Heavenly Father, help me to always rejoice in the gift of Your Word to me and to receive it with joy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:3-11 Death Which Has No Dominion

Apart from those who are alive when the Lord returns, we will all taste death. But having been baptized into our Lord Jesus, we are baptized into HIS death. Because Jesus died (but has also risen), He has destroyed the power of death to frighten and alarm us. Jesus is indeed the firstborn from the dead, but He's not the last. He has risen, never to die again, and so will we. In this way, death no longer has any dominion, power, or condemnation for us. We can face our deaths with peace for we know that it is only a sleep, from which we will be awakened on the Last Day, to be clothed with imperishability and immortality. *Lord, help me always to trust in my baptism, which has delivered me from the domain of death, and to rejoice in the resurrection. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17 Words to Live By

What does it look like to live a Christian life? The Lord shows us in the commandments: Have only one God, pray to Him, and rejoice in His Word. Serve your neighbor by upholding authority, life, and marriage, protecting their possessions and good name, and by being content with what the Lord has given to you. As Jesus shows, however, our life doesn't look like this. We deserve nothing but everlasting punishment and death because of our violating God's will shown in these words. The Son of God, though, has put on our flesh for the sole purpose of redeeming us from this death and taking the punishment on Himself. *Lord Jesus, thank You for redeeming me from certain destruction. Help me to love God and serve my neighbor always. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-30 Salvation Made Possible by God

"What good must I do?" That's the question of our flesh. It's a question seeking righteousness from the Law. But the Law will always demand more. More good works. More love. More righteousness. In response, the disciples rightly asked "Who then can be saved?" Certainly, if we were left to save ourselves by our own works, it would be impossible. But, as Jesus reminds us, with God, all things: our redemption, salvation, being brought to heaven, are possible. What is impossible for us, God makes possible through the blood of Jesus. That blood is poured over us in our baptism and given into our mouths in the supper. *Blessed Lord, keep me from trusting in my works for my salvation and point me instead to Your work of salvation on my behalf. Amen*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-10 Saved by Grace to Serve Our Neighbor

"For by grace you have been saved." St. Paul repeats this twice here. Driving it into our minds. Our salvation is a gift given by God, apart from our works. We have no part in earning our eternal life. This doesn't, however, mean that we don't perform good works at all. We have been created by God, not to live in a solitary existence only for ourselves, but instead to serve our neighbor. The Lord has prepared these works for us beforehand. He shows us what these works look like in His commandments and He gives us to do them in our vocations. *Lord Jesus, help me to serve my neighbor in Love through my vocation and keep me from thinking those works of love somehow earn Your favor. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114 The Lord Whom Creation Obeys

The Psalmist says that the sea fled, and the mountains and seas skipped. Why? Because the Lord commanded them to do so. Just as at creation when the Lord speaks and it happens, so too here, the Lord speaks and creation obeys. The Lord spoke, however, not for an arbitrary reason, but in order to save His people from the hands of the Egyptians. So also today, the Lord has attached His speaking to water, bread, and wine; and also to the words of the pastor who proclaims the absolution and preaches the commands and promises of the Lord. Here too, creation obeys. Your flesh is renewed through these words, you are made new, and you are given the promise of eternal life. *Lord God, thank You for making me new through Your Word. Amen.*

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