

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- |
 luia.
 Say to God, "How awesome | are Your works!*"

Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-
 | selves to You.
 Come and see the | works of God:*
 He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
 Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!*"

And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,
 He keeps our soul among the | living,*

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 9: 23-24

"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

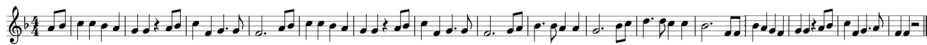
9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

**SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Like the Golden Sun Ascending**

TLH 207, LSB 548
Thomas Kingo



1. Like the golden sun ascending,
 Breaking through the gloom of night,
 On the earth his glory spending
 So that darkness takes to flight,
 Thus my Jesus from the grave
 And Death's dismal, dreadful cave
 Rose triumphant Easter morn
 At the early purple dawning.

2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us,
 Thou hast conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because Thou didst arise
 And hast opened Paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.

4. Thou hast died for my
 transgression,
 All my sins on Thee were laid;
 Thou hast won for me salvation,
 On the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise
 And shall meet Thee in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory:
 I shall lift my head in glory.

6. For the joy Thy advent gave me,
 For Thy holy, precious Word;
 For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,
 For Thy blest Communion board;
 For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
 For Thy resurrection morn,
 Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,
 And in heaven I shall behold Thee.



"He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy"

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: He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy

The little while of the three days has ended. Now we find ourselves in the little while between Ascension and the Last Day. And what Jesus said to His twelve is also true now of us: "The world will rejoice at your sorrow." If we too would be His disciples, we must deny ourselves daily, take up our crosses, and follow Him. We are conformed to His image—humbled, bloody, beaten, and crucified—through many sorrows and sufferings. And yet, our sorrow will turn to joy, says Jesus. Christians alone bear suffering with hope and purpose, since we are fully confident that we do not suffer for our sins, but as freed and forgiven children of our gracious Father. Christ has suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us back to God. No one can take our confident confession and joy from us. Soon nothing will ever threaten again!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-23—A Bitter Rhyme Written in Gold

Paul Gerhardt's hymn, "Awake, My Heart, With Gladness" imagines a sign hung on the gates of heaven: "Who there my cross has shared, finds here a crown prepared; who there with Me has died, shall here be glorified." We follow Christ in bearing the cross, suffering, scorn, and even the daily frustration and temptation of sin, from which we long to be fully free. But the Lord's comfort here is that it will not last. Sorrow will be turned into joy that no one can take away.

The Resurrection has guaranteed it. The last Day will reveal it. *Lord, join me to You by the cross and bring me to eternal joy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75—Steady as She Totters

Faith expects good from God. His Name is as near to us as our own skin through Holy Baptism. We have every confidence—even when we do not see His judgment and vengeance carried out as we see fit. We wait for Him and we give Him thanks. He is the Judge who judges justly, and we entrust ourselves to Him. The world in its turmoil is still sustained by God, who keeps it steady by His Word. And all the more, He has given the cup of wrath to His Son instead, that we might be both righteous and exalted. *Lord, we await your steadying hand in the midst of our tottering. Have mercy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20—Who Will Do Us Justice?

Our battle is not with the powers of this world. Our battle is against our own sinful flesh. Redeemed by Christ, we are free people—not enslaved to licentiousness. We know authority is God's good gift. We know also that God must be obeyed as supreme. And yet, injustice is everywhere. Peter urges us to endure such suffering with patience and honor. So great is our freedom in Christ that we do not need to secure our own rights or justice. He alone has justified us. Suffering while doing good acknowledges that gracious God. *Lord, bind me closer to Yourself with every cross. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-33—Out of the Dust

It is good to suffer, Lamentations says. It is good to be afflicted, insulted, and even have your mouth in the dust. Because it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. The affliction of the Lord is not from His heart, Lamentations says. It is not a sign of His hatred toward His Christians. It is a grief that will cause the hopeless soul to call to mind the only hope that truly comforts: The Lord's steadfast, undeserved mercy in Christ. He remains faithful. He is our portion alone. Every false comfort must be crucified, that our hope be in the One who raises from the dust. *Lord, do not cast off forever. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11—No Trouble Troubles Me

What is the reasoning behind Jesus' comment, "Let not your hearts be troubled"? "Do not be troubled, because I am. And you have a place in me, among us, with us." The way to the Father and to eternal life is Jesus, and Him alone. No one comes to the Father any other way. And that way, the way of Jesus, is the way of the crucified. It isn't a way without suffering and trouble. But the heart of faith must not be troubled, and has no reason to be, when it has Jesus. Then it has the Father, and the crown, and life. *Lord, give me truth and life and courage in all suffering, until You take me to Yourself. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16—Confidence in our High Priest

Jesus' temptation was in our place. He was sinless, that His obedience might be credited to those who believe. But here we also have encouragement to see that Jesus, our Savior and High Priest, knows what we suffer and can therefore sympathize with us in every weakness and trial. The incarnation (God in our flesh) means that our God is not distant or indifferent. Thus, we have every confidence. We may ask for everything in prayer. We may receive mercy and find grace in Him. Hold fast the confession of this God! *Lord, You have borne all my griefs. Preserve me in confident faith. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146—Hope Well-Placed

In mankind there is no salvation. In the Lord hope is well placed and blessing is found. For this Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. This Lord gives joy to the sorrowful. This Lord keeps faith forever. He is trustworthy and true. He acts for His beloved. He is gracious. So we, at the end of this week, confess even from crosses and sufferings the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise Him. For suffering produces endurance, endurance character, and character hope. And hope placed in Him will never disappoint. *Lord, I will praise You as long as I live. Amen.*