

“Submission to the Lord of Compassion”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 47:1-2, 3, 6-8**

Oh, clap your hands, all you / peoples!*
 Shout to God with the voice of / triumph!
 For the Lord Most High is / awesome;*
 He is a great King over / all the earth.
 He will subdue the peoples / under us,*
 and the nations un - / der our feet.
 Sing praises to God, sing / praises!*
 Sing praises to our King, sing / praises!
 For God is the King of / all the earth;*
 sing praises with under - / standing.
 God reigns over the / nations;*
 God sits on His / holy throne.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Lamentations 2:22-23**

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and give to us those things that be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Depends on Our Possessing

TLH 425, LSB 732
 Unknown



1. All depends on our possessing
 God's abundant grace and blessing,
 Though all earthly wealth depart.
 He who trusts with faith unshaken
 In His God is not forsaken
 And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

2. He who hitherto hath fed me
 And to many joys hath led me,
 Is and ever shall be mine.
 He who did so gently school me,
 He who still doth guide and rule me,
 Will remain my Help divine.

4. When with sorrow I am stricken,
 Hope my heart anew will quicken,
 All my longing shall be stilled.
 To His loving-kindness tender
 Soul and body I surrender;
 For in Him alone I build.

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 July 14-20, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: Submission to the Lord of Compassion

Our Lord's compassion spills off the pages of the gospel accounts. He feeds the hungry, He heals the sick, He raises the dead, and most importantly He forgives the sins of sinners. This week's readings recall and remind us of our Lord's loving compassion and mercy for us in times of need, trial, temptation and suffering. We need not fear, for the Lord is faithful, He keeps His promises. He who made us His beloved children in Christ Jesus will see us through all things.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:1-9 The Lord's Saving Compassion for You

This is the second miraculous feeding recorded by Saint Mark. In both instances, our Lord's compassion moves Him to feed these very large, concert size, crowds of hungry people with "a few small fish" and some loaves of bread (v. 7). These miraculous feedings point us to Jesus' true identity as the "Son of God," the "Holy One of God" Who has come to give God's people much more than a free lunch (Mk. 1:1; 2:24)! Why does Saint Mark include this second miraculous feeding? These four thousand people are predominantly Gentiles who are to be included in all that Jesus has come to do and give for the life and salvation of the world. *Thank You Lord Jesus, for extending the saving love and compassion of Your cross to me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:49-56 Delighting in the Word of the LORD

In what do you delight? Many God-given first article gifts bring us joy and delight; friends and family, rest and recreation, vocations and vacations. These are good things. The Psalter teaches us that God's Torah, His Word of law and gospel is our ultimate joy and delight. Those who delight in the LORD's Word and ways have light, life, joy, peace, comfort and hope. Because of this, the Psalmist can say, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!...Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart" (Ps. 119:103; 111). Blessed are those who delight in the LORD's Word, His commands and His promises. *May Your Word, O LORD, be my delight, my joy and my song now and forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:19-23 The Free Gift of God's Righteousness in Christ

Saint Paul realizes that the human illustration of slavery has its limitations, but is nevertheless an apt way of describing the human condition. No one is absolutely free! One is either a slave to sin and death or a slave to God and righteousness. Slaves to sin die, for the wages of sin is death. Slaves to God, united and bound to Christ Jesus in the waters of Holy Baptism, live in the righteousness He has freely bestowed on them. Baptized into Christ, we are dead to sin, free from its tyranny, and the condemnation of the law. Baptized into Christ, we are raised with Christ to live anew that by daily contrition and repentance we might die to sin and live before God in righteousness. *O Lord, thank You for the free gift of life and salvation in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:23-25 The LORD Does Not Forget His People

It's a painful and heartbreaking thing to be forgotten by friends or family. How infinitely worse to feel forsaken or forgotten by God! Languishing in exile, ancient Israel was sure that the LORD had not only forgotten about them but had cast them off forever. Thus, "the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel" declares to His people that He has not forgotten them, but will restore them, bring them out of exile, bless them and make them His righteous people once again (v. 23). He will ultimately forsake His one and only Son for them and for you so that they and you might never be forsaken or forgotten by Him. This is comfort that satisfies the weariest of souls! *To You, O LORD, be all praise and glory.*

Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:24-31 You are of Much Value to God

Do you ever wonder about your worth in life? Do you ever compare your worth with the material things you own, your value with the skills, the physical or intellectual gifts you have or do not have? If you do, you are certainly not alone. Our Lord Jesus, however, would have us meditate His Words here in Matthew chapter ten and upon our incalculable worth and value to Him and our Heavenly Father. Not only are you of more value than many sparrows, but every hair on your head is known to Him who calls you His own. The Father did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up in death for you so that you might be His beloved child. This is your value and your worth. *Thank You, O Lord, for making me Your beloved child in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:8-23 Struck Down, but Not Destroyed

Time and time again Saint Paul experiences and endures much suffering for faithfully proclaiming the "good news" of Jesus. And yet, he is "not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). Paul is nearly stoned to death, and yet he gets back up and continues to do the work God has given him to do. No, Paul is no fictional superhero, but a man who finds his strength in the cross of Jesus and the grace of God that is sufficient for him in suffering and weakness (2 Cor. 12:8-10). Thus, Paul can say, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8-9). *O Lord, help me cling to the cross of Jesus and Your all sufficient grace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125 The LORD Surrounds His People

Saint Paul bids us to be wise and walk carefully for "the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). Dark are the days we are living in and evil surrounds us on all sides. Therefore, we are prudent to put on "the whole armor of God" that we may stand against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11). Psalm 125 reminds us that the rule of the wicked will not prevail over the land of the righteous (v. 3) and that Yahweh surrounds His people as the mountains surround Jerusalem (v. 2). Like Jerusalem, we are safe, treasured, and protected. One day, the wicked will indeed be judged and punished. Until then, "those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever" (v. 1). *Help me, O LORD, to walk carefully in Your ways, trusting in You. Amen.*

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