

“He is Risen to Overcome Death”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Luke 24:5-7, Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9**
 He is risen, Alle- | luia!*
 Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!
 Remember how He spoke to you? Alle- | luia!*
 “The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.” Alleluia!
 Alle- | luia!
 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in | all the earth,*
 who have set Your glory above the | heavens!
 For You have made Him a little lower than the | angels,*
 and You have crowned Him with glory and | honor.
 You have made Him to have dominion over the works | of Your hands:*
 you have put all things un- | der His feet.
 O | Lord, our Lord,*
 how excellent is Your name in | all the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Corinthians 5:7**
 Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; 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 **Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands** TLH 195, LSB 458
 Martin Luther



1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
 For our offenses given;
 But now at God's right hand He stands
 And brings us life from heaven;
 Therefore let us joyful be
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah!
 Hallelujah!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree-
 So strong His love!-to save us.
 See, His blood doth mark our door;
 Faith points to it, Death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Hallelujah!

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 April 12-18, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Overcome Death

Very likely, you are reading these devotions in some sort of quarantine because of the COVID-19 virus. It is also very likely that your celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord will look a bit different for you and your loved ones. But in the midst of all things we experience in this life, the changes and chances of this world, one thing remains the same, *the Lord is risen*. The implications of this are so far-reaching as to give meaning to our very past, to guide our present, however uncertain it may be, and shape our future. How? With the earth-shattering impact of the defeat of death itself, the forgiveness of our sins, and the hope of the life to come.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8 – Easter: “O Death, Where is Your Sting?”

Why do we need fear you, O Death? Why do we shake in our boots when you rear your ugly head at us, when you swallow up our loved ones and fill our hearts with anxiety? Why do we need fear you? You are dead yourself, aren't you? For my Lord has been swallowed by you, and He has punched a hole right through you. The stone is rolled away. You could not hold Him. Yes, you will swallow me up too, even as you swallowed Him. But He walked out of you, and so will I. All who have loved His appearing will walk out of that hole in your greedy gullet to life immortal. Jesus unites with me and has promised me this.

Death, I will not fear you. You are dead. Jesus is alive. *Lord Jesus, make my heart to rejoice every day of this resurrection life in You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 57 – “Be Exalted, O God”

David wrote this hymn when he was chased by blood-thirsty Saul. Though his enemies surrounded him and laid snares for him, David is confident to boast of the faithfulness of God and His steadfast love. This is the confidence that is born of faith. So it is when our ancient enemies, the devil, the world, and our sinful nature hem us in and cause us to doubt the graciousness of the Triune God, we rebuke them, and trust in God all the more. In the midst of tribulation dear Christian, take up the hymnal and the psalter like David, and sing to the Lord in the midst of your trial whatever it may be. For God will “send from heaven and save” in Jesus Christ. *Be exalted, O Lord Jesus, let Your glory be over all the earth! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 – Christ, Our Passover Lamb

In Egypt, God told His people to slaughter a perfect sacrificial lamb, smear its blood over their doors and lintels, and eat of the lamb in the safety of their home. Death would pass over and strike down the first-born of the Egyptians. What God foreshadowed in Egypt, He revealed fully in the sacrificial blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, whose blood marked the wood of the cross and atoned for not the sins of a household, but for a whole world. No longer does the household of God, the Church, eat lamb and unleavened bread of the Passover, but the celebratory feast of the Lord's Supper, His true body and blood risen from the dead. *Lord Jesus, You are the true Passover Lamb, through Whom we are spared from death. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:13-15 – He Shall Be High and Lifted Up

The Lord will be high and lifted up. He shall be exalted. Once so marred and beyond the semblance of men, in His resurrection and ascension the Lord now waits for the time when every eye shall behold Him as He is. No more the man of sorrows, no more the pitiable figure beyond the form of the children of men, but the Crucified One - the One who was pierced, the One who was dead and is dead no longer. He will be exalted in His coming to judge the earth. So let the message of His Word startle the nations. Let it startle you. For He is coming. As surely as He is risen, so is His coming. And He will come for you, to be exalted with Him. *Lord Jesus, grant us true repentance and faith that we may receive with joy your coming. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-8 – After the Sabbath

The two Marys go to the tomb on the first day of the week. It is the day after the Sabbath, notes St. Matthew. It is not an incidental thing. It is the day after the day of rest. The Lord Jesus rested, even in death, according to the commandment. He rests in the tomb on Holy Saturday, the Sabbath day, filling it and fulfilling the commandment with Himself, and rises with the sun on Easter morning, the first day of the week. In Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we live now in an eternal rest, an eternal Sabbath. Every new day is a day on which to hear preaching and God's word, pray, praise, and give thanks, for Jesus is our Sabbath rest. Rest in Him. *Lord Jesus, You have conquered all our enemies, grant that we would rest in Your love. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-12 – Now and Not Yet

St. Peter encourages his hearers with the best of all news - that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and we are born again to a living hope of an inheritance that is permanent, untouched by the decay of this life. This inheritance, our own resurrection from the dead and our eternal bliss with God and all the saints is kept in heaven for us. It is ours even now by faith in Christ. But even as we have it now by promise, we suffer the effects of this fallen world. We are grieved by sickness and death, trials and tribulations. Keep the faith dear Christian! Your faith is being tried and tested. Your hope is not in vain. You must endure yet a while. Jesus loves you and is coming back for you. *Lord Jesus, come quickly and keep me faithful. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 118 – Luther's Most Beloved

When Dr. Luther was kept at Coburg Castle during the Diet of Augsburg, he wrote to a friend, “[Psalm 118] is more precious to me than the honor, wealth, and power of the pope, Turk, Emperor, or of the whole world, and I wouldn't be willing to exchange it for them all.” Indeed this psalm is an embarrassment of comfort in all our woes. Here, dear Christian is the steadfast love of the Lord, the refuge of the weary, the prayer of the saints under duress, the Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem to be rejected by the builders, His resurrection, and indeed our own resurrection from the dead. Let this psalm be upon your lips as it was on Luther's and countless other saints, and let God comfort you through it. *Save us, we pray, O Lord!*

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