

“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 **Mark 16:6**
 “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here.”

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Overcome Death

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Risen in defiance of death. Risen as the Conqueror of the devil's kingdom of darkness. Risen as the Savior, the Redeemer, the Christian's Champion, and friend. We rejoice that the resurrection of Jesus is (like everything He does) for us, for our benefit and salvation. He is raised, and He is taking us, His children, with Him to life everlasting!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8, Free from Death

Christ is risen as He promised, but none of the disciples believed it. The women are on their way to the tomb with spices, not to meet the risen Lord, but to finish caring for His corpse. They still had burial work to do. But Jesus is finished with death. The angels preach, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. (You are in the right place. You have the right tomb.) He is risen! He is not here." That is not how things are supposed to work. The dead are supposed to stay in the grave, but not Jesus, and because of Him, not you. We see death, and we expect the grave to hold on to the dead, but Jesus has broken death's grip. He is free, and we will be free with Him soon. *Lord Jesus, free us from the fear of death. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2, The Eternal King

Who will be king? This is the question of Psalm 2. Tyrants on earth would claim the title and glory, but the Lord laughs. All the kings and rulers of the earth set themselves together to break the Lord's bonds of God's law and cast away the cords of His ordering of the world; it won't work. Their efforts are both dangerous and futile. Jesus is the eternal King of Kings. He asked His Father, and He gave Him the nations as His inheritance. He sits on the throne forever, and rules with a rod of iron, frightful to His foes, but wonderful to us who are rescued. "Blessed are those who put their trust in Him" (2:12). *O Lord, may we always live under You in Your kingdom, and serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Amen.*

TUE

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

The first Passover lambs were killed in Egypt, their blood placed on the door (so the killing angel would see and pass by). These lambs were roasted and eaten in haste as the people prepared to leave for the promised land. These lambs preached Christ, the Lamb of God to come. His blood repels death. His blood washes away sin. His blood purchases our eternal redemption. His blood overcomes the devil. His blood cries out for mercy. His blood, God's blood, is poured out for you, for the forgiveness of all sins. Let us keep the feast, the meal of the body and blood of our Passover Lamb, in the sincerity of God's love and trusting in the truth of His love. *O Lord, give us joy in the weekly feast of redemption and the promise that death passes us by. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:13-15, The Servant Exalted to King

Jesus is Servant. Jesus is King. He came not to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many. "I am among you," He says, "as the One who serves." His claim of king is mocked with a thorn-crown, and He is exalted, lifted up, on the slave-executing cross. Jesus is the Lord's Servant. He acts wisely. His cross is His glory, His throne, and on it He establishes the kingdom of peace, not of this world, but as a foretaste of the world to come. He is dead, buried, raised, sits at the Father's right hand where He rules in glory to serve us with mercy. God be praised! Jesus is the King who serves, and we, His people, are blessed by Him. *Lord Jesus, we thank You that You rule and reign in all things for the sake of Your body, the church. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-8, Come and See

"Come, see the place where He lay." The angel beckons the women into the empty tomb, and you can almost hear the astonishment in his voice! Jesus is up and out of the grave. The tomb is empty. Since the Fall of Adam and Eve the grave has greedily devoured humanity. But look, Jesus is gone, alive. He woke up, stood up, and walked off. He has destroyed death, looted the grave, burst the bonds of the tomb, and He has done all this for us, for you. The first fruits of the resurrection, and you are the next fruits. Your death is also destroyed. Your grave is broken, it cannot hold on to you. Christ is risen, and your resurrection is on the way. *Lord Jesus, come at last and complete Your conquering of death for me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-12, Born again through His Resurrection

Here's an astonishing insight: "He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Jesus is raised, and we are born again! This carries us through life and suffering and death all the way to the new heaven and earth. A little while, and all the trouble of this life will be behind us, all the tears, all the trials, all the sorrow, all the sin, all the graves: gone. We, the hopeful, rejoice with "joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory," waiting for "the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls!" May God grant us this joy-filled patience. *O Lord, keep us through the troubles of this life in the confidence of the glory to come. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 113: The Raiser of the Poor

Jesus' followers were astonished that Jesus is raised from the dead (and we are too), but this is what the Lord does. "He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes." Jesus is raised because God is the Lifter of the needy, the Raiser of the poor, the Savior of the dead, the Redeemer of sinners. When Jesus commended Himself in the hands of the Father, He commended Himself into the hands that rescue, and He will also rescue us. His salvation has come, and His gift of the resurrection is on the way. *Praise the Lord. O Lord, You are blessed from this time forth, and even forever more. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email office@hopeaurora.org. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller. He is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, TX. He and Keri have four children and live in Round Rock, TX. You can find more theological resources from him at www.wolfmueller.co.