

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 68:5-6, 35, 1, 3, 7, 10, 19

God is in His holy habi- / tation.*
He gives a home to the / desolate.
The God of Israel is He who / gives strength*
and power to His / people.
Let God arise, Let His enemies be / scattered;*
let those also who hate Him flee be- / fore Him.
But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice be- / fore God;*
yes, let them rejoice ex- / ceedingly.
O God, when you went out before Your / people,*
you, O God, provided from Your goodness / for the poor.
Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with / benefits,*
the God of our sal- / vation!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 147:1

“Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, who are always more ready to hear than we to pray and give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

TLH 329, LSB 607
Martin Luther



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
My prayer let come before Thee.
If Thou rememberest each misdeed,
If each should have its rightful meed,
Who may abide Thy presence?</p> | <p>3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.</p> |
| <p>2. Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.</p> | |



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: **Believing Humility**

Jesus is the Savior of Sinners. We think that sin is the problem, and it is. But more important is how we consider our sin. If we love our sin, or if we don't even recognize our sin, we are in a dangerous place. Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee standing in the front of the synagogue, boasting of his righteousness. He was far from the kingdom of God. The sinful tax collector, on the other hand, was beating his chest and begged for mercy. The sinner, the one who knew his sin and lamented it, this one went home righteous. The Lord's Law works in us the knowledge of our sinful condition, and by the Gospel Jesus forgives that sin, our sin, forever.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:9-14 Guilty and Acquitted**

In God's holy courtroom there is no arguing your own righteousness. We try. We think that we are pretty good people, better than most. We minimize our sin and maximize our good works, but God sees through our disguises. We are sinners, guilty, deserving condemnation, case closed. But God so loved the world that He sent His Son to suffer for our sin and guilt, and by the gift of the cross of Jesus, all our sins are forgiven. All of them. The Lord exalts the humble, the repentant. You are guilty, but by the mercy of God you are acquitted, innocent, declared righteous. You are justified. *Lord Jesus, show me Your mercy, forgive all my sins, cover me with Your righteousness, and bring me with joy before Your righteous throne. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Ps 119, eleventh part (KAPH v81-88) When?**

The Christian life is a life of waiting, longing, hoping for the Lord's promised deliverance. We walk through this veil of tears, begging for the Lord's deliverance. How long, O Lord? When? "When will You comfort me?" (v. 82). "When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?" (v. 84). While we wait we pray, and we cling to the promises God has given. We remember His Word. The Lord will receive us according to His lovingkindness. The death and resurrection of Jesus assures us that the Lord is faithful, and our waiting will soon be over. *O Lord, revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:1-10 Life Passed On**

"What I received, that I delivered" (15:3). Paul didn't add anything to it. He didn't take anything away. He took the life-giving death-destroying sin-forgiving good news of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and passed it on to the Corinthians, and to us. The death and resurrection of Jesus: this is the gospel that we have heard, believed, and in which we stand, and by which we are saved. None of us could pay the price our sins deserve. None of us could overcome death and the grave. But for us Christ died, and for us Christ was raised, and His victory is ours, our salvation, our life, and our greatest joy. *O Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your precious death and glorious resurrection for my salvation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **2 Samuel 22:21-29 With the Merciful and with the Pure**

These words of prayer are written by King David (after he had escaped from Saul). We also read them in Psalm 18. Especially verses 26-27 are a riddle worth contemplating. "With the pure You show Yourself pure, and with the devious You show Yourself shrewd." There is a spiritual mystery here: the Lord seems to act toward us as we expect Him to act. Apart from faith the Lord is harsh and demanding, but when we trust in the Lord Jesus we see how the Lord truly is to sinners, gentle and compassionate, longsuffering and gracious. With the merciful You show Yourself merciful. *Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:36-50 Much Forgiveness, Much Love**

While Mary (we think) was washing Jesus' feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair, the Pharisees were mocking, "How could He let Himself be touched by a sinner?" So, Jesus tells the parable of the two debtors. Who loves more, the man forgiven a little or the man forgiven a lot? We know that the Pharisees were also sinners, that they needed the Lord's mercy just as much as Mary, that they had much to forgive, but they didn't know it. They neither recognized nor acknowledged their sin, so they had no love for the Savior of Sinners. But we, like the woman washing Jesus' feet with her tears, know the unfathomable depth of the Lord's mercy the covers even our own sin. *Lord Jesus, I love You. Thank You for forgiving me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 10:4-18 The End of the Law**

The Law shows us our sin and our desperate need for Jesus. Then Jesus comes. The Gospel forgives all our sins. The blood of Jesus washes us clean. The Holy Spirit brings faith through the Word, and we believe and call upon the Lord's name. Now there is nothing to condemn, no sin to accuse, no work needed to satisfy God. It is finished: the Law has done its chief work and brought us to the knowledge and sorrow and disgust of our own sin. Then Christ comes, with the promise of Redemption. The Law sits down, and Christ stands, blessing. God be praised! *Heavenly Father, grant us repentance by the preaching of Your Law and Your Gospel, that we might stand in the confidence of Your righteousness. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 147 Praise is Beautiful**

This Psalm of praise is beautiful, especially as it brings us the wonder of God's might and grace. "He heals the brokenhearted... His understanding is infinite... The LORD lifts up the humble... [He] makes the grass grow in the mountains." The LORD upholds creation by His strength, and the LORD upholds His people by His kindness and love. "The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy." All our hope is in His mercy, and His hope never disappoints. His promises never fail. His word endures, and with the LORD's word we also endure to life eternal. *O LORD, heal our broken hearts, bind up our wounds, strengthen the gates, lift us up and preserve us to eternal life. Amen.*

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 Kerri have four children and live in Round Rock, TX. You can find more theological resources from him at www.wolfmueller.co.