



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.*
 He has redeemed my / soul in peace.
 Cast your burden / on the Lord,*
 and He shall sus- / tain you.
 Give ear to my / prayer, O God,*
 and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.
 My heart is severely pained with- / in me,*
 and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.
 Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,*
 and horror has over- / whelmed me.
 I will pray, and / cry aloud,*
 and the Lord shall / save me.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 143:8
 “Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 1, LSB 901
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty Benjamin Schmolk



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| <p>1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 Filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> | <p>3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy
 seed is duly sown:
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.</p> |
| <p>2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee, Come Thou
 also unto me:
 Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a
 heaven on earth must be.
 To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
 Let it be Thy temple now!</p> | <p>4. Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me
 keep Thy gift divine,
 Howsoe'er temptations thicken:
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
 As my guiding star through life,
 As my comfort in my strife.</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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 21-27, 2022

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

Several of the Scripture lessons assigned for this week deal with the matter of God's judgment—not on the pagan but on those who have the Word and reject it. While this may be an uncomfortable topic for the Christian to consider, it is necessary, for “these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.” (1 Cor. 10:6) Let us take these warnings to heart, repent when we despise preaching and God's Word, and flee to our Lord Jesus, who comes to forgive us in His Word and Sacraments. When we worship the Triune God in faith, wrought by the Holy Spirit, we find a gracious and merciful Lord who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48 – Saved from God's Wrath

Traditionally on this Sunday, the historical account of the destruction of Jerusalem is read during the Divine Service. This is to remind us sinners that God's wrath against sin is real and that we should fear it and not do anything against Him. But in the same Service we also hear of God's mercy, that His only-begotten Son went to Jerusalem to suffer and die for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Therefore we should also love and trust in Christ, Who has justified us by His blood and saved us from the wrath of God.

Lord Jesus, thank You for having compassion on us and redeeming us by Your death on the cross. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80 – Hope in the Word

God's hands have made and fashioned us; therefore we have the duty to serve and obey Him. However, our thoughts and desires are soiled with sin, so we cannot know how to do this by our own reason and strength. That's why we pray that God would give us understanding that we may learn His commandments. That prayer is answered in God's gift of His Word, where we not only learn of His Law but also His steadfast love and mercy in the Gospel. Thus we also hope in Jesus, the Word made flesh, by whose mercy we live.

Lord, let Your steadfast love comfort us according to Your promise. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 – Spiritual Gifts

There are many strange ideas as to who the Holy Spirit is or what He does, but if we want to know the truth, we should listen to Jesus: “The Spirit of truth will bear witness about Me.” (John 15:26) The Spirit bears witness about Jesus in the Word, which is faithfully confessed by Christians throughout history and around the world. Though it may be in various kinds of tongues, this utterance of wisdom and knowledge is one. For it is the same gift given by the same Spirit to say “Jesus is Lord!”

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit that we may confess before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-30 – Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven

Today the Church remembers St. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, one of Jesus' twelve apostles. He was there on the night of Jesus' betrayal, disputing with the rest as to which of them was the greatest. He probably had no idea that night that the rest of his life would be filled with persecution and ultimately end with martyrdom. But this is greatness in the kingdom of heaven: to serve others in confessing Jesus Christ and Him crucified and to remain faithful even unto death. May God grant us strength to stay with Jesus in all trials, just like Bartholomew.

Lord, thank You for the faithful example set by Your servant Bartholomew. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:16-24 – Justified by Jesus' Deeds

The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him. That's why neither John nor Jesus was accepted in their day. But those who saw Jesus' mighty works and still rejected Him in unbelief will face greater judgment. God forbid that of us! Instead, let us who have heard the Word of the Lord and received His Sacraments remain steadfast, both in repentance over our sin and in faith in Christ Who has truly justified us by deeds: His sinless life, His all-atoning death, and His glorious resurrection.

Almighty God, deliver us from the day of judgment for Jesus' sake alone. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15 – Exhort One Another Every Day

It may seem strange that the Israelites put the Lord to the test after all the mighty works He had done for them, but we face the same temptation to go astray in our heart in spite of all Christ has done for us. To avoid this, we are not only to examine ourselves, lest we fall away from the living God, but also to encourage one another every day. That means gathering around God's Word and Sacrament with other believers. For God wills that we worship together, sharing in Christ and holding our original confidence firm to the end.

O God, grant that we might be kept firm in the one true faith to the end. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 – Give Ear to My Pleas for Mercy

In this psalm, David has heard the Law of God, and it has done its work in his heart. He has been led to fear God's righteous judgment against his sin. However, David's fear does not lead him to flee from God, but to Him. His hope is in the Lord, for he remembers and meditates on God's works. Having been admonished by God's Law this week, do not despair, but trust in the Lord, remembering all that He has done for you: namely, He sent His Son to suffer and die for you that you would be saved eternally.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Amen.

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