

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 Luke 18:13
“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

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 TLH 329, LSB 607
From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee Martin Luther



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?
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.
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.



“Believing Humility”

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**

“My heart swims in blood.” These words, set to music by J. S. Bach for Trinity XI, were inspired by the prayer of the penitent tax collector, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” Believing humility permeates the lessons for this week as “our dear Lord teaches us what it means to be genuine and humble Christians, who are pleasing to a gracious God” (Luther). Two Psalms, two Pauline texts, two Lukan texts, and David’s prayer of deliverance speak together to teach you to pray with the tax collector for “those good things [you] are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ” (Collect of the Day).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

At the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, a purpose-driven heretic went to the microphone and thanked his church body for all the good things that he has done, including training 1.1 million pastors. Could there be a more profound icon of the self-righteous Pharisee? The prayer of the Pharisee-in-you starts and ends his prayers with “I,” with a litany of works that are rubbish before God. But the prayer of the Tax Collector and all the penitent is self-denying, without credentials, and barely able to lift one’s eyes. It is an empty-handed, broken-hearted prayer, what someone calls “a homeless hobo on the Rodeo Drive of religion,” that is, the prayer of the penitent hearts that trusts in Christ alone. *God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Ps 119:81-88 PSALM INTRODUCTION (to be read before praying the Psalm)**

Out of 176 verses in Psalm 119, almost every verse refers to the Word of God (or promises, statutes, law, etc.), but verse 84 is a rare exception. Here is what someone called “the cry of the martyrs under the golden altar in heaven” – “How long must your servant endure?” and “When will you judge those who persecute me?” As you pray this Psalm, let your complaint be known to God about how long you must suffer until Jesus comes to be our Judge. And rejoice that you abide in the Word of God as you join the faithful Hebrews on your spiritual pilgrimage to the new Jerusalem. *Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Church uphold, For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold. Oh, prosper well Thy Word of grace / And spread its truth in every place (TLH 292.3). Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:1-10 ‘Let Us Proclaim the Mystery of Faith’**

St. Paul truly saved some of his best wine until last! After addressing a lengthy “vice list” that would make even the most challenged parish seem stable today, he left us the “Great Resurrection Chapter,” which is foundational for the eucharistic text, “Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,” along with this threefold response. *Christ has died!* Jesus paid the price for your sins once for all and can never die again. *Christ is risen!* He is forever in His risen and exalted state, triumphant over your sin, eternal death, and the wiles of the devil. Christ will come again! For where the risen Head has gone, His churchly body must follow. *Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord / The life laid down, the life restored. Alleluia! (LSB 475.4). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **2 Samuel 22:21-29 David’s Prayer of Deliverance**

David’s prayer of deliverance was prayed when “the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul” (22:1). It is followed by David’s last words (23:1-7), making this also his prayer for final deliverance from sin and eternal death. The entire prayer (2 Sam 22:2-51) echoes Luther’s explanation of the petition, “But deliver us from evil.” Here you join with David to pray that your heavenly Father “would rescue [you] from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when [your] last hour comes, give [you] a blessed end, and graciously take [you] from this vale of sorrows to Himself in heaven.” *I call upon You, O Lord, for You are worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies (after v. 4). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:36-50 Jesus Eats with a Pharisee and Forgives a Sinful Woman**

In contrast to our second unbelieving Pharisee in our readings for the week, this woman is an icon of the Church. Like this anonymous woman, you acknowledge your misery and know that you are by nature sinful and unclean. As this woman was declared righteous by the righteous One, so through Holy Baptism you, O Sinner, are born of Virgin Mother Church, and robed in Christ’s own righteousness. As this woman washed Jesus’ feet, so your repentance also has eyes fixed on His feet which walked the way of the cross. And as she wiped His feet with her hair, so do you ever put yourself beneath the merciful Lord Christ in believing humility. *Soul of Christ, hallow me. Body of Christ, save me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 10:4-18 The Word Made Flesh, The Word Enfleshed**

If the four gospels emphasize the Word *made flesh*, then the Pauline epistles focus on the Word *enfleshed*. Christ Himself wrote nothing, except a few scribbles in the sand. Rather, He preached the message of repentance (Matt. 4:17). Similarly, the risen One intends for the Gospel not just to be read from the pages of the Bible, but to be preached to the ears of the faithful. Preachers therefore are educated in the scriptural Word in order to preach the incarnate Word. Thus Christ, the Word made flesh, is enfleshed in your heart, mind, and life as you are saved by hearing the good news about Jesus. *Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, And may our faith abound / To call on You when You are near / And seek where You are found. (LSB 720.3). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 147 PSALM INTRODUCTION (to be read before praying the Psalm)**

The Greek Old Testament describes this Psalm as “Alleluia, of Haggai and Zechariah,” implying that it addresses the recently rebuilt Jerusalem, following Babylonian captivity. In New Testament terms, Thomas Aquinas sees this Psalm as the voice of Christ (the new Temple) to you, His churchly Jerusalem. As you pray this Psalm, consider how the Lord lifts up the humble and casts the self-righteous to the ground (vss. 1-6); how He shows fatherly providence to all creation (vss. 7-11); and how the Lord cares for His churchly city and calls all men to enter her gates through repentance and faith (vss. 12-20). *Savior, since of Zion’s city / I thro’ grace a member am, Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy name (TLH 469.4). Amen.*

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