

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 44:23, 25-26, 1-3, 7-8**

Awake! Why do You | sleep, O Lord?*

Arise! Do not cast us off for- | ever.

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;*

arise for our help and re- | deem us.

We have heard with our | ears, O God,*

our fathers have told us the deeds You did in | days of old:

You drove out the nations | with Your hand,*

but you planted our fathers because you | favored them.

You have saved us from our | enemies,*

and have put to shame those who | hated us.

In God we boast | all day long,*

and praise Your name for- | ever.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 55:11**

“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, because You know that we dare not put our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through 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
May God Bestow on Us His Grace

TLH 500, LSB 823
Martin Luther



- 1. May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.
- 2. Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of every nation,
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.



“The Lord’s Call to Faith in His Grace”

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: **The Lord's Call to Faith in His Grace**

The Lord's Word is powerful. When God speaks things happen. This is a blessed truth for us. When our Lord Jesus speaks to us His Word, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. We consider a number of texts this week that put before us the wonder and truth that the Lord's Word saves us, overcomes the devil, and brings us from death to life eternal.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 8:4-15: The Soil and the Seed**

God's Word is powerful. Specifically, it has the power to save (see Romans 1:16). The church calls this the "efficacy of the Word," the wonderful truth that the Holy Spirit works through the Word to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His people. So, in this parable, you are the dirt. Your heart is nothing at all without this seed. But along comes the preacher, and the seed is planted in the soil, the word takes root in your heart, and there the Lord gives the increase, even to eternal life. This Word has enemies: the devil, the troubles of this life, pleasures that attack the gift of God's grace. But the Word we hear and believe is the Word of God that beats back the devil and brings eternal life. *Holy Spirit, plant Your Word of promise in my heart. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 24: Righteousness Received**

When we read the word "righteousness" in the Bible our first thought should be of the righteousness of Christ, His perfect obedience to the law, His perfect suffering of the troubles of this life. His righteousness is given to us by faith in the promise of the forgiveness of all of our sins. We read of this gift of righteousness in Psalm 24:5, "righteousness from the God of his salvation." We must be righteous to ascend the Lord's holy hill, to stand before Him. If it were up to us to be righteous by our works and deeds and efforts, we could never make it. But we are declared righteous by Christ. We receive righteousness from Him as a free and astonishing gift. *Lord, give me the righteousness of Christ that I might stand before You in eternal life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9: Paul's Triumphant Weakness**

"Paul is not a real apostle." That was the charge being heard in Corinth to undercut Paul's preaching and the Gospel. Paul defends his office and his preaching to protect the people, but look at how he defends himself. He doesn't list all his triumphs and accomplishments. He writes a list of his weaknesses. His gives a litany of his troubles. "If I must glory, I will glory in the things that concern my weaknesses" (11:30). Paul was in the office of the Gospel, which is not an office of strength but of suffering, an office of blood, an office of the dying of God. Paul preaches Christ and Him crucified, and Paul's life was full of this suffering. The proof of His office is the proof of God's love: wounds. *Lord, make Your strength perfect in our weakness. Amen.*



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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 55:10-13: Nothing Void Here**

Imagine a parched and dusty desert. There is no life at all, nothing green. Then the rain starts to fall, and life returns. The plants start to grow, the flowers bloom. This is the picture Isaiah puts before us to help us understand the life God brings through His Word. "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth," says the Lord, "it will not return to Me empty." His Word accomplishes the task it was sent to accomplish. And what is that task? God be praised, He sent His Word to give us life, salvation, and the forgiveness of all of our sins. "You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace." *God grant us life in the hearing and believing of Your Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 4:26-32: Two More Farming Parables**

We began the week with the parable of the sower and the seed. Today Jesus gives us two more pictures of the farm to teach us about His church. The first picture is of a sleepy farmer. He plants the seed and takes a nap, and the wheat grows all on its own. Jesus reminds us that His kingdom does not come about through human works and efforts, but through the efficacy of the Word. In the second parable Jesus compares the Word to a mustard seed. This is the smallest and most humble seed of all, but it spreads out its branches to house all the birds. In just this way the humble Word of the humble Savior builds the church that stands even against the gates of hell. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:25-30: An Easy Yoke?**

Yoke, a big hunk of wood that holds two oxen together. A yoke is heavy, strong, rough. It is built for oxen, the biggest beast of burden. A yoke means work. Jesus is talking about a yoke, but it is of a different sort. "My yoke," He says to you, "is easy. My burden is light." This is a different kind of yoke, a different kind of burden. All that the law requires of us would crush us. The commands of God would drive us to the ground. But Jesus takes the burden of the Law, the weight of our sins, and He carries it to the cross. He carries our load. He suffers under the weight of God's wrath. And the result? This burden is lifted from us. The light yoke of Jesus is His Gospel, the forgiveness of our sins. *O Lord, give us the light and joyous yoke of Your mercy. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 25: How do you want to be remembered?**

David asks the Lord to remember him, but his prayer is very specific. 25:7, "Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to Your mercy remember me!" David asks the Lord to forget his man sins, and remember His mercy and kindness. This is a beautiful prayer. We do not ask the Lord to think of us, of our failures, of our successes, of our sins or our works. We ask the Lord to think of His mercy, His Son, the death of Jesus on the cross. When the Lord remembers us through the death of Jesus then we are rescued and saved. *Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindness, for they have always been, even from ancient times. Amen.*

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