

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



**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 **Psalm 119:25**

"My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!"

**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.

**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**

"Thy people's pasture is Thy Word, Their souls to feed and nourish," writes Martin Luther in this week's hymn. This week's readings from Holy Scripture focus on the all-powerful, all-sufficient, Word of the Lord. God's Word is light and life, producing saving faith in us, strengthening our faith in Christ Jesus and equipping us for every good work. Since the Holy Scriptures are 100% God's "breathed out" words to us, He bursts forth from every page of Scripture to do His work in us. This Word of God, which also became flesh in Christ Jesus, never fails and will always accomplish the purpose for which it is sent. Thanks be to God!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 8:4-15 He Who Has Ears Let Him Hear**

Jesus gives us an invitation and a warning in one sentence; "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Many will hear the Word of God, receive it with joy and believe it for a while, but not all will hold it fast in their hearts. Life in this world is thorny and the enemies of God's Word are manifold. Our sinful nature, the world and the devil all wish to choke and steal the Word from our ears and hearts. Thus, Jesus invites and encourages us to be frequent hearers of His Word so that by His grace His Word would be deeply rooted in our hearts, grow stronger and stronger, bearing the fruits of faith. *Lord, to whom shall we go, You have the Words of eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 24 Clean and Pure In Christ**

Which one of us has clean hands and a pure heart? Not you, not me, not even king David! How then can any of us ascend to the Lord's hill or enter His holy temple? Psalm 24 is a liturgical entrance psalm, a prayer of confession by those entering the Lord's house of their complete dependence on His merciful grace. How do we enter God's holy house? By remembering our baptism, confessing "I a poor miserable sinner..." and receiving Holy Absolution. Jesus, the only man with clean hands and a pure heart, became sin for us "that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"(2 Cor. 5:21). Clean and pure in Christ we enter God's house rejoicing and giving thanks to Him who is mighty to save! *Create in me a clean heart O God. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 The Power of God's All Sufficient Grace**

Strength in weakness? Rejoicing in suffering? Boasting in weakness? Such things are nonsense to the world even as the cross of our Lord is foolishness. The world boasts in glory, power, triumph, success, health and wealth. Where God grants us these things in our lives we do not boast in them or ourselves, but give thanks to Him. What about trials, sufferings and hardships? It surely isn't wrong to pray for God to remove these, but how can we rejoice, boast in, and give thanks when He doesn't? Answer: the power of God's all sufficient grace in Jesus! Our hardships and trials are the places where God manifests His strength in weakness, comfort in suffering, joy in sorrow, and life in death. *Thank You, O Lord, that Your grace is all sufficient for me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 55:10-13 God's Word Never Fails**

The Word of God never fails. Like the rain and snow that come from the heavens, producing real tangible nourishment, growth, and life for every living thing, so the Word of God produces real nourishment, growth and life. None return void but accomplish what they are sent to do! The Word of God never runs dry. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isa. 40:8). What God says He will do! What He promises, He will keep! When He says, "You are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isa. 43:1-2), He means it. When He says, "Your sins are forgiven... go in peace" (Luke 7:48, 50), you are forgiven and you may go in peace. When He says, nothing "in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:39), nothing will. *Thank You, O Lord, that Your Word never fails. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:25-30 Yoked with Jesus**

When Jesus says weary and burdened, we're all ears! Life in this world can be exhausting! But it's not simply the weariness and burdens of life Jesus is speaking about. He invites all people to come to Him for rest; rest from the weariness and burden of the Law and our sin. No one except Jesus can bear that heavy load! And that is just what Jesus did for you! He carried the yoke of your sin and bore the weight and burden of the law all the way to the cross. Baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus, you have true rest now and forever from sin, death, and the devil. Yoked with Jesus and His cross, we are free to live, free to serve in Him and through Him. *Lord Jesus, thank You for giving me true rest in Your mercy, grace and forgiveness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 The Holy Scriptures, 100% God's Word**

"The Holy Scriptures did not grow on earth," Dr. Luther once declared. Unlike, every other book that is composed and written by men, the Holy Scriptures are God's very own Words to us. Though God used His chosen prophets and apostles to speak and write His Word, every single word of the Holy Scriptures are "breathed out" of God's mouth. His all powerful Word creates faith and makes us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (3:15). We, like Timothy, are exhorted to continue in the faith and God's Word, taught to us since our childhood, that we would grow and mature in faith, competent and "equipped for every good work" (3:17). *Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, sanctify us in Your Word of truth and life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 25 Boldness and Confidence before the Lord**

What do you do when the world is falling in on you? What do you do when trouble arises? What do you do when you are lonely and distressed, full of anxiety and worry? David knew what to do and where to turn in times of distress. "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (v. 1). Turning to the Lord in prayer, David takes refuge in the God of his salvation. In spite of his sin, he clings to the Lord's mercy and calls on Him to help. Trusting in His steadfast love and faithfulness, David waits in confidence for the Lord to answer. Like David, who teaches us to boldly cast ourselves on God's mercy, we turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer with all boldness and confidence that He will hear us for the sake of Christ. *O Lord, have mercy and hear our prayer. Amen.*

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