

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 25:7**

“Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me.”

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



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| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
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“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**

Where do I turn for comfort? Is it in my works? Of course not! Is it in my ability to do the things that are required of me? I surely hope not! Is it in my ability to choose the ways of God and accept Jesus? Goodness, I am pretty sure I could never do that! So where is it? What is my faith in and where is my comfort placed? It is in the grace of God; in the undeserved forgiveness of sins won on the cross and given in His Word. It is in that Word that grants to me the things of salvation despite all logic and reason telling me differently. It is in Jesus; Him alone. Him dead on a cross and risen from the grave and ascended into heaven and given to me in time and place. This is all for me! And I didn't earn an ounce of it!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 8:4-15—The Purpose of Parables**

We think that parables are given in order to make things clearer, but they aren't. In fact, they usually seem to make no sense at all. They aren't reasonable or rational, like the things of the Law. Instead, they are strange and backward, like the things of the Gospel. The Gospel makes no sense. Forgiveness of sins, life, salvation, the cross, all of these things are done the exact opposite of how we would do them. In our text the Sower is haphazardly throwing around seed without a care in the world. It is almost reckless. But this is the way of our Lord when it comes to the Gospel. He is reckless with it, almost unimaginably so. But thank God that He is, for how else could we ever receive it? We certainly aren't worthy of it. It has to be given to us despite ourselves. *Almighty God, thank You for the Gospel and its power to save me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 24—Climbing to the Top**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? Not me, that's for sure. I don't have clean hands and I certainly don't have a pure heart. Each and every day I lift up my soul to evil and deceit. There is nothing good within me. How in the world am I to ascend the hill of the Lord? I can't. I won't. Not in and of myself. And so My God comes down to me. He comes to me! In Words of absolution that forgive my sins, in a wet forehead that buries me and raises me to life, in fleshly bread and bloody wine to unite me to Him. My God comes down to where I am; here in this muck and mire of sin. And then He lifts me up, carries me up the hill, takes me to the very top to be with Him. Again, it's the way of our Lord: Doing the things that are required of me and then giving me the credit. Thanks be to God! *Oh Lord, make me worthy to ascend Your holy hill. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9—A Time for Boasting**

There is none who could boast like Paul. Seriously, who among us could indeed hold a candle to Paul and all of the boastings that he had? If any man had earned salvation, it was Paul. But he didn't. And he knew it. All of his good works were like filthy rags when seen in the light of salvation. And so he only boasted of his weakness, because it was there that he was made perfect in Christ. If we were to boast in our goodness, it would be a worthless endeavor. No one is perfect, not even one. So instead we boast in our weakness: that we are poor miserable sinners whom Christ died for. My boasting is in the Lord, in Jesus, in the cross for me! For that is the only thing that matters: Jesus. Jesus for you. Jesus for me. Jesus for the sinner. If we boast, let us boast in Jesus. *Gracious God, may I always turn from my own works and boast only in You. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 55:10-13—Rain and Word**

The Word of the Lord is never empty, not ever! We may not see how it works, and I have no idea how the things of God work. I have no idea how rain waters the earth or the sun makes things grow. I couldn't tell you how it is that the things of this earth work perfectly together to make my life worth living. But they do. And how much more His Word. Whenever God's Word is spoken, it accomplishes His purpose. A Law to crush, and a Gospel to revive. How it does this, I have no idea. But the promise for me is that it does. God's promise for me is that His Holy Spirit works His things through His Word and it is outside of me. It works on me despite me, just the way that God intends it to. That is my comfort: That God's Word works for my good, just like He promises. *Heavenly Father, may Your Word always accomplish Your will. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 4:26-32—The Mustardy Word**

Just like yesterday, this parable is about the Word of God. It is about that simple little Word that does things no one in their right mind would ever think possible. It is so weak and feeble, so small and insignificant that all reason and logic would speak against it. But then, against everything that makes sense, it produces faith. It makes alive. That simple Word forgives me. It washes me clean in Baptism. That silly Word brings God out of heaven and places Him on my tongue and in my stomach. It forgives me. It saves me. It gives me the cross. It gives me Jesus. All of that happens in that small little ineffectual Word that is greater than anything that I could even create or do or imagine. And it is all for me, for you too. Jesus for us all in His Word proclaimed. *Jesus, may Your Word never fail in bringing me salvation. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Timothy 3:10-4:5—Itching Ears**

The time for itching ears is now. It has always been here. There has never been a time in which the sinful flesh doesn't clamor to hear of things that make it happy. We see it in the world. We see it in our neighbors. We see it in our own selves as we lay our heads on the pillow and wonder why we do the things that we do. And then we are drawn back to the Word. We are drawn back to hearing God's forgiveness given and granted despite ourselves; only for the sake of Christ. God's Word rebukes us when needed. It reproves us and revives us. It exhorts us to repent and to be turned from our evil ways. And it works good in us; good works for our neighbors and faith to receive the things of salvation. God works through His Word. *Word made flesh, repent us from our evil ways and forgive us for Your sake. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 25—A Prayer**

O Lord, I lift up my soul to You. Where else could I go? Save me from sin and death and the devil. Lead me in Your ways that I may know that I am Yours. Remember Your love for me in Christ. Do not look upon my sins or my worthless works, but on Him alone. Keep me steadfast in Your covenant, faithful in Your testimonies. May I forever fear You above all else. And when I fail, pardon me in Christ, for I know I deserve nothing but damnation. Repent me, turn me, lead me in Your Truth, for my heart is heavy and my sins are great. Guard me and keep me in the one true faith, for I cannot do it myself. Forgive me today and tomorrow and all the days of my life. Redeem me from my enemies that I may live with You in everlasting righteousness and blessedness forever. Amen.

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