

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 97:6,9, 1, 10-12

The heavens declare His | righteousness,*
and all the peoples see His | glory.
For You, Lord, are most high above | all the earth;*
You are exalted far a- | bove all gods
The Lord reigns; let the | earth rejoice;*
let the multitude of | isles be glad!
He preserves the souls | of His saints;*
He delivers them out of the hand of the | wicked.
Light is sown for the | righteous,*
and gladness for the up- | right in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you | righteous,*
And give thanks at the remembrance of His | holy name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 John 4:9

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth Your hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

TLH 512, LSB 839
Johann Herrmann



1. O Christ, our true and only Light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Thy voice
And in Thy fold with us rejoice.
3. Oh, gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let every conscience sore oppress
In Thee find peace and heavenly rest.

5. Shine on the darkened and the cold,
Recall the wanderers to Thy fold,
Unite all those who walk apart,
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
6. So they with us may evermore
Such grace with wondering thanks adore
And endless praise to Thee be given
By all Thy Church in earth and heaven.



Around the Word Devotions + January 23-29, 2022

“God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal”

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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal

Advent anticipated the coming of Christ (“Oh, *come . . . Emmanuel*”). Christmas proclaimed His arrival in the flesh (“Joy to the world, the Lord *has come*”). Epiphany (literally ‘manifestation’) now proclaims the good news that “God *was made manifest* [‘epiphanied’] among us” (Verse of the Week). This week we behold God as He is manifested in Christ through two miraculous healings (Sunday), two psalms on the life of faith (Monday and Saturday), the conversion of St. Paul (Tuesday), the restoration of Jerusalem (Wednesday), worthy preaching by unworthy servants (Thursday), and the great “hall of faith” from Hebrews 11 (Friday).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:1-13 “Manifest in making whole / palsied limbs and fainting soul” (TLH 134.3)

See the liturgical shape of both of these healings! As an introit or entrance, the leper and the centurion approached Jesus in penitent faith, lest they presume upon God’s grace. For their Kyrie, they prayed out of their need to Christ, who is mercy incarnate, as all the baptized place their trust in God’s Divine clemency. As their Gloria, the leper and the centurion worshiped God, who manifested His healing power to palsied limbs and fainting soul. As our Collect, then, let all penitent sinners petition God for His abiding help in Christ alone: *Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of Thy majesty to help and defend us (TLH p. 59). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 15 Who Shall Dwell on Your Holy Hill?

David prayed this Psalm as the ultimate journeyman, who lived in tents and sojourned over hills. Christ prayed this Psalm “as a high priest of the good things that have come...through the greater and more perfect tent” (Heb. 9:11), having secured our eternal redemption with His own blood. And we, who are in Christ, pray this Psalm knowing that “if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). *Glory to You, O Father, for You have given us the tabernacle of Your Son’s flesh; and to You, O Son, in whom we abide by faith; and to You, O Holy Ghost, by whom we live without spot or blemish; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 The Final Judgment (Gospel for The Conversion of St. Paul)

See how the last in this life are first in God’s kingdom, while those who are mighty in this life are cast down from their self-made thrones! The disciples were a rag-tag group of fishermen, tax collectors, and outcasts, but they will sit on twelve thrones as sort of a “jury of peers” in the final judgment. St. Paul was an independent tent maker with his own followers and the prestige of Roman citizenship, until God regenerated him by water and the word (Acts 9:1-22) and began to seek eternal treasures. And you, even if you are last in this life, have the hundredfold blessings of His kingdom in His word and sacraments. *O Lord, for Paul’s conversion, We bless Your name today; Come shine within our darkness, And guide us on our way (LSB 517.12). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:6-9 The Lord Shall Restore Judah and Jerusalem

St. Augustine, after the fall of Rome in the early fifth century, wrote *The City of God* to contrast the desolation of the earthly city of Rome with the everlasting city of God, the new Jerusalem. Likewise, God promised through Jeremiah a restored Jerusalem, but even this earthly kingdom, apart from Christ as its true Temple, was “in slavery with her children” (Gal. 4:25). St. Paul continues: “But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother” (Gal. 4:26). So you have a baptismal diploma of permanent citizenship in this heavenly city, with all the rights, honors, and sacramental privileges thereto appertaining. *Savior, since of Zion’s city / I through grace a member am, Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Your name. (LSB 648.4). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:5-10 Unworthy Servants, Worthy Preaching

In his book, *The Church*, Lutheran theologian Bo Giertz says that some pastors are work horses, who try to do everything and effectively do nothing. Others are racehorses, who are at once everywhere and nowhere. Some are merry-go-round horses, who serve as entertainment directors. (Let us add the more recent “executive pastors,” who are too aloof to visit their shut-ins!) But in the spirit of Luke 17, Giertz says some pastors are simple oxen from the country (Is. 1:3), who are content to say, “We are unworthy servants,” for they have only done their duty, that you may hear the preached word of the cross. *To send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit: We implore You to hear us, good Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:1-16 The Hall of Faith

What an honor to be enshrined in any earthly hall of fame, but how much greater to be included in the “hall of faith” in Hebrews 11! By faith Abel, Noah, Abraham, and a host of others lived by “the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). These luminaries of the Christian faith are precursors to the faithful Son of Israel, “Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who...endured the cross...and is seated at the right hand of God” (Heb. 12:2). And now, through Holy Baptism, your name is permanently included in the hall of faith. *Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending, On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending; Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—With grace precede us (LSB 667.5). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

Psalm 33 is foundational to Luther’s explanation to the first commandment, for here we pray that all nations would *fear* Him (v. 8), that His people would *love* Him (v. 18), and that you would *trust* in Him and wait upon Him, for He alone is your help and your shield (v. 20). Fearing, loving and trusting in Him above all things, let us conclude the week with a hymn stanza from Albrecht, Duke of Prussia, who was longsuffering and faithful in his support of the Reformation: *When life’s brief course on earth is run / And I this world am leaving, Grant me to say, “Your will be done,” Your faithful Word believing, My dearest Friend, I now commend / My soul into Your keeping, From sin and hell, And death as well, By You the victory reaping (LSB 758.4). Amen.*

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