

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 107:28-29, 1, 8, 24-25**

They cry out to the Lord in their | trouble,*
and He brings them out of | their distresses.
He | calms the storm,*
so that its | waves are still.
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for | He is good!*
For His mercy endures for- | ever.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His | goodness,*
and for His wonderful works to the child- | ren of men!
They see the works | of the Lord,*
and His wonders | in the deep.
For He commands the | stormy wind,*
which lifts up the waves | of the sea.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 97:1**

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, as You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our fallen nature we cannot at any time stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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
Seek Where Ye May to Find a Way

TLH 383, LSB 557
Georg Weissel



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| <p>1. Seek where ye may To find a way
That leads to your salvation;
My heart is stilled, On Christ I build,
He is the one Foundation.
His Word is sure, His works endure;
He doth o'erthrow My every foe;
Through Him I more than conquer.</p> <p>2. Seek whom ye may To be your stay;
None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed, This Man prevailed,
The God-man, and none other.
Our Servant-Lord Did help afford;
We're justified, For He hath died,
The Guiltless for the guilty.</p> | <p>3. Seek Him alone, Who did atone,
Who did your souls deliver;
Yea, seek Him first, All ye who thirst
For grace that faileth never.
In every need Seek Him indeed;
To every heart He will impart
His blessings without measure.</p> <p>4. My heart's Delight, My Crown most bright,
Thou, Jesus, art forever.
Nor wealth nor pride Nor aught beside
Our bond of love shall sever.
Thou art my Lord; Thy precious Word
Shall be my guide, Whate'er betide.
Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust Thee!</p> |
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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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of January 29-February 4, 2017

THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus over Nature

We are often tempted to believe that we are in control of our own lives. If we behave a certain way, follow a certain diet and exercise routine, and make “right” choices, our lives will unfold according to our desires and everything will be ok. When our eyes are opened and we realize that we are actually not in control of anything, we are often filled with stress, anxiety, and even despair. With eyes of faith, we are blessed to see that it is actually the Lord who reigns. His reign over the earth is shown to us in the work and life of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to accomplish what we cannot. By His life, death, and glorious resurrection, we are freed. In faith, we trust in His reign and we rejoice in the reality that all things are in His hands.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:23-27: “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey Him?”

When the forces of nature rise up and test your faith, where do you turn? The disciples turned to their Lord, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” The One who slept, the example of faith, arose. This Lord is much more than example. He rebukes the wind and the waves. The sea obeys and the frothy waves become a great calm. “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey Him?” He is also the object of faith. “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Jesus accomplishes what we cannot. No matter how great the storm, the salvation of the Lord is greater. *Heavenly Father, when our faith falters, turn us to the One Who controls even the wind and the waves, the One Who saves, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2: “The nations rage and the peoples plot against God.”

Under the curse of Adam, it is our nature to rebel against God. “The nations rage and the peoples plot against God.” The kings and rulers take counsel against the Lord. God is not welcome in the “real world.” He is pushed to the periphery, banned from the conversation, even denied. God laughs at this foolishness (v.4), God warns (v.10), and God loves (v. 12). He sends His only begotten Son to rule over the nations. Our nature cannot overthrow the true King. This is the only King that has the authority to deliver us from our bondage to sin. His nature is pure. He serves to the glory of His Father for the benefit of His people. *Heavenly Father, humble us that we may serve the true King, and take refuge in Him, even Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:8-10: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Have you loved your neighbor as yourself today? Sure we may be nice to our neighbors on occasion, but it would be quite a stretch to say that we love them as ourselves—unconditionally and wholeheartedly. It’s just not in our nature. Even so, born of the Virgin Mary, unconditional love entered creation. Jesus loved His neighbor as Himself. He loved to the Father’s delight. He willingly sacrificed His life on the cross, for the love of the world. In so doing, He fulfilled the law and redeemed our nature. Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection you receive this unconditional love of God. *Merciful Father, our flesh is weak. Clothe us in the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that even we may love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:1-3: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

The Lord, the One who created and formed Israel, also delivered His people from the clutches of Pharaoh’s pursuing army. The Lord parted the Red Sea and Israel crossed in safety. Later, the Lord interrupted the flow of the Jordan River, allowing His people to cross on dry ground and enter into the Promised Land. Still today, the Lord provides a path of deliverance for His people through water and Word. In your baptism, you were called by name; you were redeemed; you were delivered from the clutches of the evil foe and into the kingdom of God. *Dear heavenly Father, thank You for destroying the obstacles that separate us from You and for delivering us into the safety of Your kingdom through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32: “According to the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.”

Like every other child, the Christ Child was born under the Law. Yet, this firstborn child of Mary is quite unlike any other. He is uniquely set apart, holy to the Lord. Jesus is the Lord’s Christ, the fulfillment of the Law. Through His life and sacrificial death, Jesus Christ accomplished what the Law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. Jesus defeated sin and death. He rose from the dead. Jesus is a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. This is to say that Jesus is the Savior, not only of Israel but also of all humanity. *Lord, we thank and praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to fulfill Your Law in order that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who, by Your grace, walk according to Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 4:16-25: “In hope [Abraham] believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations.”

Abraham received the promise from God that he would be a father of many nations when he was one hundred and his wife, Sarah, was ninety. The thought of natural parenthood was practically unimaginable. Hearing the promise of God, Abraham believed and hoped against hope. It is the Lord who calls into existence the things that do not exist. He is the Creator. It is also the Lord Who gives life, Who breathes life into the dust of the earth, Who gives a son to the elderly Abraham and Sarah, as promised. *Heavenly Father, You granted Abraham the faith to set aside his reason and trust in Your promises. We pray that You would strengthen our faith, when our reason tempts us to doubt the promises given us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97: “The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!”

The reign of the Lord is universal. His reign extends to even the remote “coastlands” of the earth. Nothing and no one can stand against the Lord. Even the mountains, which we think of as permanent and unmovable, will melt away before Him. “All the peoples see His glory.” In Jesus Christ, the power of God, the love of God, and the glory of God is made known to the world. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the lives of His saints are preserved, and they are delivered from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 97 illustrates this glorious reality which we will behold, with our own eyes, on the Day of the Resurrection. *Lord, God, defend us, Your saints, from the temptation to follow false gods that we may rejoice in You and behold Your glory. Amen.*

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