

“The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 28:8-9, 1-2, 7

The Lord / is their strength,*
 and He is the saving refuge of His a- / nointed.
 Save Your people, and bless Your in- / heritance;*
 shepherd them also, and bear them up for- / ever.
 To You I will cry, O / Lord my Rock:*
 do not be si- / lent to me,
 lest, if You are si- / lent to me,*
 I become like those who go down / to the pit.
 Hear the voice of my supplications when I / cry to You,*
 when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctu- / ary.
 The Lord is my strength / and my shield:*
 my heart trusted in Him, and / I am helped.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Galatians 3:11

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “the righteous shall live by faith.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord of all power and might, the Author and Giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall

TLH 369, LSB 562
 Lazarus Spengler



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| <p>1. All mankind fell in Adam's fall, One common sin infects them all; From sire to son the bane descends, And over all the curse impends.</p> <p>2. Through all man's powers corruption creeps And him in dreadful bondage keeps; In guilt he draws his infant breath And reaps its fruits of woe and death.</p> | <p>5. As by one man all mankind fell And, born in sin, was doomed to hell, So by one Man, who took our place, We all received the gift of grace.</p> <p>6. We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours, New light, new hope, new strength, new pow- ers: May grace our every way attend Until we reach our journey's end!</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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace**

“By the works of the law no human being will be justified” before God, writes St. Paul (Rom. 3:20). No one stands righteous before God on their own. “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the God” (Rom. 3:23). Apart from Christ Jesus we stand before God guilty as charged, condemned to judgment and eternal death. But thanks be to God that there is a righteousness apart from the law that comes to us through faith in Christ Jesus! It is the righteousness of Christ that God bestows upon you for the sake of Christ and His work for you! Born anew in Holy Baptism we are raised with Christ to live by faith and walk in newness of life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:20-26 - Righteousness that Exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees**

Have you ever opened up a carton of milk that looked perfectly good on the outside only to find out that it was spoiled on the inside? Gross! This is a little bit like the scribes and Pharisees. They looked good on the outside! They were seen as the religious elites that everyone else should emulate. But on the inside, they were as sinfully rotten as the next person born of Adam. Jesus cranked up the law to expose their phony lives and their false righteousness. In Holy Baptism you have been clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your rotten sins. This righteousness given to you in Christ is the only righteousness that gives one entrance into the kingdom of heaven. *Grant, O Lord, that we would trust and live in Christ's righteousness. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:20-28 - Sharing in Jesus' Suffering and Glory: Festival of St. James the Elder, Apostle**

Everybody wants to be first in line. Nobody wants to be last! That's the way it is in the world. At the moment, this appears to be the attitude of Jesus' disciples and the mother of James and John. Not so with Jesus. Jesus will put Himself at the back of line. He “came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matt 20:28). James, John and the others will learn Jesus' way of serving, His way of suffering and the cross. They will share in His glory, but not before they share in His suffering. We too follow Jesus in His way of serving, His way of the cross; rejoicing with the sons of Zebedee in Christ's all sufficient suffering and death for us and our salvation. *Lord Jesus, help us to walk Your servant way. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 6:3-11- Fused Together with Christ**

God's gift of Holy Baptism stands at the center of the Christian life. Baptism connects us to Jesus, plunging us into His death and raising us up in His resurrection! St. Paul uses the strongest language possible to declare that we have been “united” with Christ in Holy Baptism. Like a broken bone that fuses together as it heals and becomes one again, so our life and Christ's life are fused together as one. There is no distance or separation between us so that what happened to Christ happens to us. When Christ died to sin, we died with Him. When Christ was raised from the dead, we were raised to new life with Him! Sin and death have no power over you because they have no power over Him. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for uniting Your life with my life. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 20:1-17 – The Good and Perfect Law of God**

“The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good,” writes St. Paul (Rom. 7:12). David says, “The law of the Lord is perfect” (Ps. 19:7a). We, however, are not perfect, good, righteous or holy in and of ourselves. God's good and perfect law makes this clear as day. Thankfully, for us and our salvation, there is One Man who kept the law of God perfectly. His perfection, righteousness, goodness and holiness are yours in Holy Baptism. United with Christ and raised with Him to live a new life, we remember our baptism daily; dying to sin through contrition and repentance and rising to live and walk in God's good and perfect commandments. *Help me, O Lord, to die daily to sin and walk in Your ways to glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 19:16-30 – Trust in Jesus!**

When you approach Jesus with a law oriented question, you're usually not going to like His answer. So it was for the rich young man. He assumes that eternal life is something that can be earned, something he can earn with his own good works. Jesus exposes the man's false gods when He says, “Sell what you possess and give to the poor...and come follow me” (19:21). Sadly, the man was unable to loosen his grip on his false gods; his own piety and his possessions. He trusted in these things rather than in Jesus. When we trust in the wrong things, when we tighten our grip on the things of this world, we loosen our grip on Jesus and distance our hearts from Him. *Lord Jesus, help me to trust in You above all the good things You give us in this life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 2:4-10 – You were Dead, but now You are Alive in Christ Jesus**

“You were dead.” That's right. You and me. 100% dead in our trespasses and sins. That's how St. Paul begins this chapter. And when you are dead, you cannot do anything; nothing, nada, zilch! And you certainly cannot raise yourself from the dead! Only Jesus did that! Only Jesus can do that for you! And that's Paul's point. You and I are saved by grace alone, 100% God's grace, His free gift. We cannot and do not do anything to add to, close, or finish the deal of our salvation in Christ Jesus. Faith receives what God has done in Christ! Faith rejoices in the free gift of grace by walking in the good works God has prepared for you and me to do. *Lord Jesus, thank You for making us alive together with You in the waters of Holy Baptism. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 114 – Praise be to Yahweh!**

Psalms 114 recalls God's great act of rescuing His people out of Egypt and His provision for them in the wilderness. These wondrous acts of Yahweh are so great, so awesome, even the earth trembles at His mighty work. The One who rules over all things has made Judah His sanctuary and Israel His realm. That is, Yahweh's salvation transformed His people into “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). The first exodus points to Christ's exodus for us. Baptized into Him “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). *O Lord, may Your praise be on our lips constantly. Amen.*

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