

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10**

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
in the midst of Your / temple.
According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the
earth;*
Your right hand is full of / righteousness.
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
God is in her / palaces;*
He is known as her / refuge.
Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,*
because of Your / judgments.
For this is God, our God forever and / ever;*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 20:26-28**

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold

TLH 260, LSB 745
Martin Luther



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| <p>1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
And let Thy pity waken:
How few are we within Thy Fold,
Thy saints by men forsaken!
True faith seems quenched on every hand,
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
Dark times have us o'ertaken.</p> | <p>5. As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So through God's Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter through the cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.</p> |
| <p>3. May God root out all heresy
And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
That shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail;
What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."</p> | |



“Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God”

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: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God

This week as we think about what it means to live the faith, we see that we are called to lives of service. The service that we perform is done for the sake of our neighbors, but it is Christ Who is the model for what it means to be a servant. We are not mistreated servants, rather we rejoice that we get to be servants who are cared for by our gracious and loving master. We serve the One who served us by dying for us on the cross. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve one such as Him!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 – Greatness in Servitude

Jesus helps us understand not only himself, but also what will become of those who desire to follow Him. He tells us that whoever would be great must be a servant and the one who would be first must be a slave to the rest. This is not the way or thinking of the world. The world tells us to look out for number one. The world tells us that we should desire to have people serving us. Yet our Lord came to serve us. He came to serve us by dying on the cross for us. We Christians take our lead from Him, not from the ways of the world. As such, we seek to serve our neighbors and show them love as Christ has loved us. *Almighty God, bless my life that it may be lived out in service to those whom You have given me to serve. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH) – A Life of Service and Praise

Yesterday we saw how Christ calls us to a life of service to our brothers. Today, we see how this is done. We live our lives of service in the boundaries of God's commandments and statutes. This is not burdensome either, but it frees us to live as God desires and designed us to be, creatures blessed by His loving, life giving order. In this, we find joy and we see many reasons to praise our God. What blessings has our gracious God given to you? How has He blessed you even in things that you perhaps didn't see as blessings at first? When we remember we are His creatures, we are better able to see the blessings that He lavishes upon us out of His goodness and love. *Almighty God, You have given me so many blessings. Give me a thankful heart and the eyes to see these blessings*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 – Debtors for Life

Many of us have financial debts. Most Americans live their lives dealing with debt. But when Paul calls us debtors, he doesn't mean that we are debtors to banks. No, we are debtors to God. We owe our Father everything. He has set us free from slavery to sin. In Christ, we have life that allows us to turn to our Father not as someone to whom we owe money, but someone to whom we owe reverent worship for He has saved us. It is for this reason that we live our lives by the Spirit, living lives for Christ, because He has purchased our lives for us. *Almighty God, through Your Son, our Lord Jesus, You have given me life. Grant that I may live this life for You and according to Your will for me, Your humble servant. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 – The Cost of Servanthood

This week as we consider what it means to truly live a life in service to Christ, we are reminded of the cost. There will be those who hate the servants of the true God. And yet, even in the midst of suffering, God is with His people. He continues to bless and preserve His people. Living out this faith is not always easy, and our God does not promise that it will be easy. We are not called to lives of leisure or pleasure. Rather, we are called to lives of faithfulness. And for those who are faithful, the Lord grants His deliverance and protection. *Almighty God, bless me and preserve me from my enemies, for You are with me to deliver me. Grant me the peace and certainty of Your presence. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 – The Builder with Authority

Many people learn the Sunday School song that is associated with this text. The wise man builds his house on the rock and the foolish man builds his house on the sand. For us who follow Jesus, we know that the Rock upon which our houses are built is Christ. But of far greater importance is that we see how the One who spoke with authority is the same One who builds our lives. As we live in service to Christ, He blesses us greatly and builds our lives around and upon Himself. He is the One who has built your life, and He is the One who is there to repair our lives when disaster strikes. While we will not be washed away in the flood, we still suffer. But the Rock is always there. *Almighty God, You are my rock and my redeemer. Bless me that I may find my rest and comfort in You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 – The Servants of Servants

Paul, after his conversion, lived a life in service to God and to his neighbors. As he says goodbye to the pastors in Ephesus, he encourages them. He encourages them to be faithful. This is the call to all pastors. If you have a faithful pastor, encourage and thank him for his service to the Lord and to you. Paul also warns to beware of false teachers who will twist the Word of God. When false teachers are discovered, pray that they may repent, but Paul elsewhere encourages that we have nothing more to do with them. Be thankful for faithful pastors and encourage them in their continued service to God, for by serving him, they serve you as well. *Almighty God, thank You for sending workers into Your harvest field from whom I am blessed to learn. Create in me true thanksgiving for Your servants who also serve You alongside me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – Tears of Servants

In this wonderful Psalm of praise to the Lord, we find in it the pure sweetness of the Gospel. This answers the important question: why do we live our lives in service to God? Because He is good! We serve the true God because He is our only help in time of trouble. It is He who can take our sorrows and turn them into joys. Even though we experience sorrow and pain in this life, our Lord is still with us. He does not abandon us to the pit of despair, but He holds us close in His mighty arm with which He has worked our redemption and salvation. We do not HAVE to serve our God. We GET to serve our God in the freedom that He has won for us. *Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning. Bless me that I may rejoice in the life and service that You have given me. Grant that I may continue to serve You now and forever. Amen.*

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