

“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 98:1-2, 3-4**
 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alle- | luia!*
 His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alle- |
 luia
 His right hand and His | holy arm*
 have gained Him the | victory.
 He has remembered His | mercy*
 and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel.
 All the ends | of the earth*
 have seen the salvation | of our God.
 Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth;*
 break forth in song, rejoice, and sing | praises.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 8: 31-32**
 Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Our merciful Father, the God who alone make minds of the faithful to be of one will, cause Your people to love what You command and to desire what You promise, that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 **Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** TLH 387, LSB 556
 Martin Luther



1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 With exultation springing,
 And, with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
 Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
 How His right arm the victory won;
 Right dearly it hath cost Him.

4. But God beheld my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
 And, mindful of His mercies great,
 He planned my soul's salvation.
 A father's heart He turned to me,
 Sought my redemption fervently:
 He gave His dearest Treasure.

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: He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth

In Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, God the Father has given this creation the greatest gift and treasure. This is most certainly true. Jesus has come and He has preached and proclaimed the Kingdom of God's rule and reign. Jesus was killed for this very work. His death has now been swallowed up by life. The resurrection of Jesus is the vindication of His identity and claims, and our Justification for believing in Him and the Promises made sure in Him by the Father and the Spirit. Now, we have seen His day. The day of the righteous branch of Jesse and the ministry and work of reconciliation He has brought and accomplished for us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15: Jesus is the Way Things Are

"Truth" is a sentence describing the way things are. Truth isn't confused. It is concrete and accurate. Jesus is the truth. He describes things the way they are. Jesus isn't confused. Jesus is God the Father's concrete and accurate expression of Love and Favor for this creation and, most especially, for you. The Holy Spirit's job is to drive Christ into your heart and soul. The more you hear the Spirit's testimony, the more certain and sure you become of the truth. Your thinking is less confused. Your actions are less wrong. Your faith is concretized. This is because there is less of your opinions and more of Jesus' truth. Day-by-day this God the Father's expressed desire for you. He wants what is good, and right, and true for you. Jesus for you. *Dear Father, let Your Spirit drive Jesus home in my heart and soul, daily. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82: When God Seems Unjust

Our flesh accuses God of being inconsistent and confused. Sometimes it appears that He is siding with the wicked, simply because they appear to flourish and seem to prosper. Doing and returning good and practicing humility even when things aren't going your way, or worse, when other people are set against you, is an act of hope. It is to trust that no matter what happens now, God and His goodness will have the last word in the end. This is a beautiful act of a faithful heart. *O God, our Father, give me Your Holy Spirit so that trusting in Your goodness, I may resist the temptation of running away or returning evil for evil, but may endure in doing good; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21: The Word is a Good Gift

Every good gift flows from the Father above. That Great Good Gift is the Word of God, namely Jesus. James rightly identifies that it is by Jesus, the creating Word of God, that we are brought forth as a first-fruits of a new thing that God is doing. Just as He brought forth Abraham by a Word of Promise thousands of years ago, now God the Father brings forth thousands-upon-thousands by the Word of Truth; Jesus Christ. God hasn't changed. When He wants to do something, He always uses His Spirit-filled, Truthful Word. *Heavenly Father, help me by Your Spirit to quickly hear the Word of Truth so that my heart may always be fixed where True joys are found. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6: The Lord Jesus is Our Strength and Song

Isaiah twelve is a responsory to Isaiah eleven. That's why Isaiah twelve begins, "You will say in that day..." Which day? It is the day when God the Father establishes the righteous branch of Jesse that He promised in Psalm eleven. In that day, in the day of Jesus, we will know for certain that God is a Good Gift Giver and that He is forever for us. In Jesus, God's anger is turned. In Jesus, we draw on the deep waters of God's salvation. In Jesus, and Jesus alone, do we have any strength, any joy, and any verse to sing. He is Risen! He is Truly Risen! Alleluia! *Dear God, thank You for not sparing anything to redeem us and save us from our sin, our death, the devils and hell. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36: The Truth Sets us Free

Jesus makes it clear, the Truth is connected to His Words about the way things are. Jesus comes to Israel preaching and proclaiming the Truth. That Truthful speech is too much for Israel. So, they kill Jesus. But, God raised Jesus from the dead. This Resurrection is the vindication of Jesus's identity and authority. Jesus's resurrection is the eternal testimony that what Jesus says is, in fact, true. Therefore, if we abide in His word, as He promises, we are TRULY His disciples and we will know the truth, the way things are, and we will be free. *Jesus, help me by Your Spirit, to trust Your Word of Truth and nothing else. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21: Reconciled to God in Christ

It is an easy temptation to believe that God is holding out on us. That's the very thing that threw this whole world into sin and death. But, in Jesus, God shows us He isn't holding out on us. Quite the opposite! God the Father sent Jesus to become sin, so that we might, in exchange, be the righteousness of God. I am not even sure how that's possible! But, what I do know is this, God the Father isn't holding out on us. In Jesus, He is still working, daily, to reconcile us to Himself in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Dear Father, help me by Your Word and Spirit never to despise Your Word and Spirit. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126: Dreaming about Restoration

Israel had to dream about the days when God would restore their fortunes. They were looking for their land to be restored. They were looking for the temple to be restored. They were looking, into the future, for the days WE HAVE. It is easy to look past Jesus. It is easy to look past our little churches. It is easy to look beyond the bread, wine, water, white-hair, crying babies, dirty floors and watches to hope for better things. Repent. In Jesus you have the fulfillment of Israel's hopes and dreams. *Dear Jesus, help me to cherish You as the things dreams are made of and set my feet firmly in Your Church as the Good land You provide for me. Amen.*