

“He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.
 Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!*”
 Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-
 | selves to You.
 Come and see the | works of God;*
 He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
 Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!*
 And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,
 He keeps our soul among the | living,*
 And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 98:1

"Oh, sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; through the same 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
Like the Golden Sun Ascending

TLH 207, LSB 548
 Thomas Kingo



1. Like the golden sun ascending,
 Breaking through the gloom of night,
 On the earth his glory spending
 So that darkness takes to flight,
 Thus my Jesus from the grave
 And Death's dismal, dreadful cave
 Rose triumphant Easter morning
 At the early purple dawning.

2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us,
 Thou hast conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because Thou didst arise
 And hast opened Paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.

4. Thou hast died for my
 transgression,
 All my sins on Thee were laid;
 Thou hast won for me salvation,
 On the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise
 And shall meet Thee in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory;
 I shall lift my head in glory.

6. For the joy Thy advent gave me,
 For Thy holy, precious Word;
 For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,
 For Thy blest Communion board;
 For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
 For Thy resurrection morn,
 Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,
 And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

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 Give Us Believing Joy

The sweet joy of the resurrection continues this week as we recount and give thanks for the awesome works and wondrous deeds of the Lord! As those who are baptized in Christ and "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3b), we have a joy that no one can or will take for us (Jn. 16:22). Our joy, our hope, our very life now and forever are grounded and centered in what our faithful God has done for us in resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ from the dead. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!" (Ps. 146:1).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-23 - Joy No One Can Take From You

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning," David writes (Ps. 30:5). The disciples of Jesus wept and mourned the brutal death and burial of their beloved Lord. But sweet joy arose the morning Jesus stepped forth from the grave, the victor over sin, death and the devil! If Jesus had not risen victoriously from the dead, the enemies of God win. If Jesus had stayed dead there would be no defeat of sin, death, nor the devil, no joy, no hope, no gift of the Holy Spirit, and no point in believing or trusting in Jesus at all. But in fact, Christ Jesus is risen from the dead never to die again! His victory is 100% yours and no one can or will ever take this joy from you! *Praise be to Thee, O Christ for Your victory over sin and death for me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75 - Cup of Wrath and Cup of Grace

The Almighty God is not some kind of grandfather who just shrugs his shoulders at sin and evil. He is the holy and just God who punishes sin and executes judgment upon evil and evildoers. For our sake the Lord poured out His cup of wrath on His own beloved Son so that in and through Him we might drink instead His cup of grace. At the Lord's table, His cup of grace overflows with forgiveness for and release from all our sin, shame, and guilt. Thanks be unto our merciful and gracious God for His wondrous deeds in Christ Jesus for us and our salvation. *Heavenly Father, thank You for sparing not Your only Son, but giving Him up for us so that we might be Your beloved children. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20 - Free in Christ to Live

On the evening of the resurrection, the risen Christ Jesus stood amidst men captive to their sins of failure and the guilt of their faithlessness. With His words of Holy Absolution, "Peace be with you" (Jn. 20), Jesus set His wayward disciples free from their sin, guilt and shame. Raised to new life, the disciples were free from all things, bound to no one and nothing, and yet free and bound to live as servants of God. Free in Christ, we do not use our freedom to indulge in the passions of the flesh or godlessness. Free in Christ, we live as free men serving God and loving our neighbor. And even when we suffer for doing God's good will, our freedom in Christ can never be taken away. *Thank You, Jesus for freeing me from sin, death and the devil. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26 - A Living Hope in Christ

The pain and suffering Jeremiah laments is so real, so fresh, so strong that he has almost given up all hope. But just when all hope seems lost, he remembers the steadfast love of the Lord that never ceases and His mercies that never come to an end! Hope is found not in the circumstances of life but is grounded in the God whose mercies are new every morning and whose faithfulness is unwavering. In His great mercy, "He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:3b-4).

This is the salvation of the Lord that we eagerly wait for with hope. *Thank You, Lord for Your great mercy in Christ that never ends. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11 - A Place in the Father's House

St. John makes it clear that when you've touched the skin of Jesus you've actually touched God. Jesus is one with the Father. He is like us in every way and yet not like us. He who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary is the Word of God made flesh, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the heavens and the earth! The eternal Son of God took on our human flesh and blood so that He would prepare a place for you with His Heavenly Father. Only through Him, His cross and resurrection, do we have life now and forever with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the truth that calms all fears and fills troubled hearts with joy! *Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You for preparing a place for us in the Father's House. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16 - Jesus Stands with us and for us

There are very few times in life we can say to someone, "I know what you're going through." Even then, we need to be careful not to minimize another's trials and suffering. Jesus, on the other hand, knows firsthand what everyone goes through in this life because He Himself suffered and was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Not only is He able to "sympathize with our weakness," but He who suffered for us stands ready and able to help us in every time of need. As our great High Priest, He gives us complete access to God, His Heavenly Father and to the fullness of His grace and mercy. No matter what we're going through, Jesus knows and He stands with us and for us. *Thank You, O Lord for Your help in every time of need. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 - Praise the Lord O My Soul!

This psalm is a hymn of praise to Yahweh for His enduring faithfulness to all generations. He "keeps faith forever" (v. 6). That is, He is the promise-maker and the covenant-keeper. Therefore, we can put our faith and trust in Him always. Jesus fulfilled the great messianic signs given in this psalm: "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (Matt. 11:5). And this is just a foreshadowing of the greater things Jesus would do through His suffering, death, and resurrection for you. "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (v.5). *Praise be to Thee, O Lord, for Your faithfulness in Christ for me. Amen.*

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