

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 40:20, Psalm 66:1, 17, 19-20**

With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth. Alle- | luia.*

The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob! Alle- | luia.

Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!*

Sing out the honor | of His name.

I cried to Him | with my mouth,*

and He was extolled | with my tongue.

Certainly God has | heard me;*

He has attended to the voice | of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,*

nor His mer- | cy from me!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Mark 16:19**

“So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O heavenly Father, as You gladden our hearts again to celebrate the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, mercifully bestow on us the joy to receive Him as our Redeemer and so welcome Him when He comes again to be our judge; through the same Jesus Christ, 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
Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above

TLH 103

Martin Luther



1. Our Father, Thou in heaven above,
Who biddest us to dwell in love,
As brethren of one family,
To cry in every need to Thee,
Teach us no thoughtless word to say,
But from our inmost heart to pray.

2. Thy name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,
In purity to keep Thy Word,
That to the glory of thy name
We walk before Thee free from blame.
Let no false doctrine us pervert;
All poor, deluded souls convert.

8. From evil, Lord, deliver us:
The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death,
And when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release,
And take our souls to Thee in peace.

9. Amen, that is, So shall it be.
Confirm our faith and hope in Thee
That we may doubt not, but believe
What here we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word
We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!
Amen.



“He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to 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: He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God

The Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, not to be farther from us, but closer. Now, we find Him wherever His Word is preached and His sacraments administered. Now, the promises for you are found in His church. The work of the Word is tied to the ascension. It is vital to see Jesus in His Word, or else the church can only feel like an echo of what was. Here we have the fullness of the gifts of God delivered to all nations, and to you.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:23-30 Ask in My Name, and Pray for My Will

Jesus doesn't say "Ask, and you might receive". He promises to give whatever we ask in the Father's name, but it often feels like He's telling us 'No.' We're confounded because we treat prayer as a means to make God do what we want. We depend on our prayer more than our God. Our prayers come from our bellies more than God's word. Jesus focuses us back. The Father Himself loves you. You believe that the Son comes from God. Our prayers are not in our own name, but in His. By faith, your joy becomes full to pray in God's name for God's will. *O LORD, teach us to pray Thy will be done, and even as it is done without our prayer, let it be done among us also. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 Home

Home is where your LORD is. He grants all good things in His house. He sets your place before His altar where you can kneel to receive His gifts. He forgives the sinners. He grants life to the dying. The Lord will not be found in all the places the wicked look for shelter, but He does not hide His presence from you. He is in His Word and His sacraments. Here, you can find a shield against all evil and all good things bestowed. He takes away your sin that you can stand upright and grants to you salvation. *O LORD, let Your house ever be a place of rest for me, a sinner. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:22-27 How can you call it perfect unless you're willing to call it finished?

James calls the law "perfect" and we start preparing our excuses. The law is perfect, but how can we call ourselves doers of it? How can we call the law perfect unless we're willing to call it something we've finished? It is perfect. Not just without flaw, but it has already been fulfilled for you and so it is unbreakable. Jesus has fulfilled the law for you. This is how it becomes a law of liberty. It is not just a diagnosis of a problem, but a place to find how to love each other, free from condemnation. Remember what is perfect: Jesus. *O LORD, even as Your Son has fulfilled the law, grant us freedom to strive to love our neighbor without fear of punishment, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:11-14 The Hobby Lobby Gospel Can't Save You

Unless you are currently being held captive by Babylonians, this doesn't mean what you think it means. Yes, God has a plan for your life. Your sinful flesh is going to hate it though. It is the cross, then the empty tomb. Crosses hurt. We always assume God's plan for our lives is our plan for our lives. It's not. Our plans never include crosses. Old Adam has to die. New man has to rise. But from the cross, God restores your fortunes and makes clear His plan of salvation for you.

O LORD, You have revealed Your will that all be saved through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Grant that this plan would be a gift and joy to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:14-20 Ascension Means a Closer Jesus

We focus on the signs more than the preaching. The thing that saved people was not snake handling, but the Word and the water of baptism. The thing is, Jesus ascended, and we figure the signs mean He hasn't abandoned us. The truth is, He ascended to be nearer. He is not in Jerusalem. He is in the font. He is in the Word. He is where His gifts are given. The Lord will work miracles, but only those in faith will see them. Everyone else will find an excuse. But the Word and the Water always do what is promised; they save.

O LORD, grant to us Your word and sacraments that we would receive Jesus. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:24-28 We see Evil, but We Hope in God

"The things seen" war against "the things that are hoped for." We see evil. Our hope is not in what we can see, but in what God promises. The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray, but also grants us patience as we wait for God's promises to appear. The hope that we have is not that someday things will be good even though today they aren't. Our hope is that God will even use what is evil for good, just as he gilded the death bed with resurrection light. He works all things for the good of those who love Him. He sustains us now and unto life everlasting. *O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your word that we would hope for the things that are yet unseen, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124 Our Help is in the Name of the LORD

If we're willing to be honest, all of us should have died doing something stupid a long time ago. All of us would have been destroyed by sin by now. If the LORD was not on our side, we would be lost. Thanks be to God, we know why we have been sustained. We know the name of the LORD. Our help is in His name. To know the name that has saved you is to know the His promises to keep you unto life everlasting.

O LORD, be our help in all times of need. Amen.

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