



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 95:6-7, 1-4**

O come, let us worship and / bow down;*
 let us kneel before the Lord our / Maker.
 For He is our God; and we are the people of his / pasture,*
 and the sheep / of His hand.
 Oh come, let us sing / to the Lord!*

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our sal- / vation.
 Let us come before His presence with thanks- / giving;*

let us shout joyfully to / Him with psalms.
 For the Lord is the / great God,*
 and the great King a- / bove all gods.
 In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;*
 the heights of the hills are His / also.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 5:24**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; 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
In the Midst of Earthly Life

TLH 590, LSB 755
 Martin Luther



1. In the midst of earthly life
 Snares of death surround us;
 Who shall help us in the strife
 Lest the Foe confound us?
 Thou only, Lord, Thou only.
 We mourn that we have greatly erred,
 That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
 Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
 Save us lest we perish
 In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

3. In the midst of utter woe
 All our sins oppress us,
 Where shall we for refuge go,
 Where for grace to bless us?
 To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.
 Thy precious blood was shed to win
 Full atonement for our sin.
 Holy and righteous God!
 Holy and mighty God!
 Holy and all-merciful Savior!
 Eternal Lord God!
 Save us lest we perish
 In the bitter pangs of death.
 Have mercy, O Lord!

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: **Believing Love of All Others**

This week, we see the unfathomable power of our God. Because he is mighty, we would do well to fear him as Luther instructs us in the Small Catechism. But see how He uses his power on our behalf through Jesus' atoning sufferings, death, and resurrection. He powerfully saves our souls today through His Word. We keep both of these images at tension in our own minds. On the one hand, our Lord is not one to trifle with. But at the same time, He is working for our good and blesses us. This is a paradox in which we see the truth of God's mercy revealed and the comfort that is ours in Christ made clear.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:18-26 – Ill Advised Laughter**

Have you ever laughed at something that you thought was funny only to later find out that it was not? How did you feel? Imagine how the crowd that laughed at Jesus felt after the girl was raised to life! How embarrassed and foolish they must have felt. Yet, how often do we ourselves chuckle with unbelief when Jesus tells us that He forgives our sins? It's a sad chuckle because we don't think it's possible. Our sins are too severe. God's judgment is too strict. Our Lord is no one to laugh at. Listen to Him. His promise is to forgive you your sins and to be present with you. He turns our sarcastic laughs into the laughter of believing joy. *O Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief that leads me to laugh at Your promises and forgive me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 125 – Surrounded by God**

One does not want to be surrounded by their enemies. That is a losing position. But in this Psalm, we find the comforting image of being surrounded by God, not as our enemy, but as our protection. This protection is necessary because the enemy is always at work, afflicting the righteous. This reminds us that while we may see and even experience the attacks of the enemy, our Lord is defending us. He turns aside many of the schemes and plots of the evil one that we are not even aware of. *Almighty God, You defend me from my enemies. In my weakness and vulnerability, uphold and defend me, for I am Yours. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Colossians 1:9-14 – Fruits of Joy**

We find words like Paul's often in the Epistles of the New Testament. We are directed to see with great joy the forgiveness that is ours in Christ. The free salvation that is ours because of the work of Christ on the cross where He died for us that we would become heirs in the kingdom of light. Then there is a second part. There is the expectation that this joy we have takes the shape of good works. Living lives of thanksgiving means that we live according to His righteous will, for this is pleasing to our God. It is a good thing for us to consider how we respond to our forgiveness in righteous acts. *Almighty God, You have given me so much. Help me to live my life as You would will, in faithfulness and righteousness. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 51:9-16 – The Fearsome Nature of God**

What are you afraid of? We are often fearful of many things. We can be fearful of people who may hurt us. We can be fearful for our health, the future, or the situation in our world. But such fears are misplaced. As we read from Isaiah, there is only One Who is truly to be feared: The Lord. It is the Lord who can destroy in an instant. And it is the same Lord who redeems and saves in an instant. We find in this text allusions to the Exodus, the salvation of Israel from slavery in Egypt and a promise to restore them again after exile. In the same way, we find that because we have the love of God in Christ, we have nothing to fear, but rather we find comfort in His promises. *O Lord, comfort me in my fears and direct my eyes always to You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 5:17-29 – The Authority of the Son**

Jesus expresses His authority over life and death. We know that He even was given authority to take up His own life after He died. He says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." These are words our hearts can trust! Jesus has the full authority to forgive your sins. He has authority to give you life and salvation. It is His desire to do those things for you. It is seen at the cross and it is heard every week from the lips of your pastor. All this He does for you out of His divine love. *Lord, You are merciful to me though I do not deserve it. Open my lips to praise You for Your love and mercy shown to me that others may hear and rejoice with me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 5:1-10 – Nothing to Fear**

On Wednesday, we saw how terrifyingly powerful our God is. And in this text today, we are reminded that we will stand before Him as our judge. This is a frightening thought to be sure. To stand before one so powerful and to be judged is something that should give us pause. But yet, even in the face of this fearsome truth, we have comfort. We have comfort from our Lord Jesus Christ Who has died and rose again for us. We will be given a spiritual body that has been made perfect in Christ. Therefore, when we stand before Him to answer for what we have done in the body, we will have new bodies that are unstained by sin. Therefore, there will be no reason to fear on that day. *O Lord, out of Your mercy, forgive my many sins that I have committed against You. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 18 – Psalm of Praise**

The context for this Psalm given at the beginning of the text is helpful. David wrote this Psalm when the Lord delivered him from his enemies, and from Saul who sought to kill him. David rejoices and praises God for His mercy and deliverance. As we read it though, we see that deliverance doesn't come without conflict. David fought. He battled against his foes. In the same way, his descendant, Jesus, fought our enemy. Jesus has defeated Satan, sin, and death. He has done these things for you. He has fought for you. He has given you life now and forever. Let us then live our lives in our vocations trusting the Lord to bless the work of our hands. *O Lord, You trained the hands of David for war while Your hands were pierced for me. Bless the work of my hands that I may serve You in faithfulness. Amen.*

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