

“The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16**

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.*
 He has redeemed my / soul in peace.
 Cast your burden / on the Lord,*
 and He shall sus- / tain you.
 Give ear to my / prayer, O God,*
 and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.
 My heart is severely pained with- / in me,*
 and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.
 Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,*
 and horror has over- / whelmed me.
 I will pray, and / cry aloud,*
 and the Lord shall / save me.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 143:1**

“Hear my prayer; O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

TLH 1, LSB 901
 Benjamin Schmolck



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| <p>1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 Filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> <p>2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee,
 Come Thou also unto me;
 Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heaven on earth must be.
 To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
 Let it be Thy temple now!</p> | <p>3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,
 Here Thy seed is duly sown;
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.</p> <p>4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
 Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
 As my guiding star through life,
 As my comfort in my strife.</p> |
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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: **The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit**

If worship were left up to us, we would certainly be lost. The sinner within us does not know the true God, let alone what good and proper worship is. The sinner wants to bring his own sacrifices to God, to make up his own rubrics, and to tell God how worship should be done. It is an earth-to-heaven transaction in which we hope to curry the favor of God. It is only through the Spirit that we learn true worship: not an earthly giving, but a heavenly one; not a heavenly receiving, but an earthly one. God gives and we receive, that is true worship. And so we pray that the Holy Spirit might lead us in this worship so that we might not be like the doubting Israelites at the door of the Promise Land, but instead be like helpless beggars with our sacks filled with Jesus.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 19:41-48—Jesus Weeps**

It is Holy Week for Jesus in our text. He weeps over Jerusalem and prophesies that it will be turned to ruin. The Temple will be destroyed because of their unbelief in the One who is the fulfillment of the Temple. He then goes into the House of God, the place of prayer, and overturns it in His own way. The Temple had always pointed to Christ and He had now come to fulfill it. He is the place where God dwells with His people. He is the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering. He is Scapegoat for the Day of Atonement. He is the High Priest that stands in the stead of YHWH before the people and stands in the stead of the people before YHWH. He is it all. He is everything. And for that, He will end up a few days later on the cross. But, this was the plan from the beginning, and He fulfills it all willingly. *Jesus, save us from ourselves and turn us to You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:73-80—Faithful Afflictions**

There is a curious phrase in this text where we pray, “and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.” Affliction coming from our Lord? Now that sounds a little off-putting. But at closer examination we realize that nothing could be closer to the truth. Our Lord afflicts us, but not as a tyrant or as a heartless child burning ants with a magnifying glass. No, according to His faithfulness our Lord afflicts us, as a loving Father chastises His children in order to draw them back to Him. We pray to our loving Father, Who has made and fashioned us and Who gives us understanding to learn His commandments and delight in His Word. So that in His mercy we may live and that we may love His law. *Merciful Father, may we meditate and delight in Your precepts alone. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 12:1-11—One Spirit, Many Gifts**

Our Lord gives gifts. Some of His gifts are for the benefit of our individual souls, while other gifts are for the benefit of our neighbor. When we are talking about spiritual gifts and spiritual service, these are all for the good of our neighbor. We dare not glory in the gift apart from the Giver as if the gift is inherently ours and we are therefore better than the next. If that be the case, then we are misusing the gifts given to us and we are not only sinning against God, but against our neighbor as well. Delight in the gifts and service that the Lord has given to you, whatever they may be. But delight in them knowing that your Lord has given those gifts to you so that He can serve your neighbor through them. Give thanks to the one Spirit who gives all gifts as He wills, and delight in the service to your neighbor. *Holy Spirit, grant me Your gifts that I may serve my neighbor. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 7:1-7—The Temple of the Lord**

The Israelites had come to misuse the Temple. They would run to the Temple (literally and metaphorically) in order to excuse their sin, their false belief, and their mistreatment of others. It was a sort of “Get out of jail free” card which they tried to play every time they sinned. The gifts given at the Temple were no longer seen as forgiveness, but as permission. But the Lord is no fool! The Gospel does not negate the Law and render it void. The Gospel renders the sinner justified and forgiven and then upholds the Law as good and righteous and holy. We dare not test the Lord by using the Gospel as an excuse to transgress the Law. This will not end well. Instead, may we joyfully delight in the Law of God and then run to the Gospel when we fall short; trusting in forgiveness, not permission. *Gracious God, may we delight in Your Word, both Law and Gospel. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 11:16-24—More Tolerable for Sodom**

That is some high praise for the most notorious city in the Old Testament. Or perhaps not so much high praise for them, but low esteem for Capernaum and places like it. Chorazin and Bethsaida and Capernaum had heard firsthand the words of YHWH spoken through the lips of Jesus. They had witnessed His miracles and fulfillment of the prophets. And yet, this Jesus was not quite what they wanted. When John is the voice crying out in the wilderness, He is a brutish law-lover; and when Jesus eats with sinners, He is a lawless whoremonger. So it goes with this generation. No matter what Jesus says it will never be the right thing, because Jesus comes to speak against sin, death, and the devil, the very things our sinful flesh adore. But thanks be to God that Jesus came for the likes of sinners like us. *Friend of tax collectors, save sinners like me! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Hebrews 3:7-15—The Day of Testing**

The Exodus had started out to be a joyous event, but then the Israelites doubted at the Red Sea, complained about mana and quail and miraculous water, fashioned a golden idol and worshipped it, and then told God that His Promise Land couldn't be had. YHWH returns in kind and says, “Your right, you will never have it, only your children will.” The writer to the Hebrews harkens us to remember the Israelites and their rebellion, lest any of us believe that we are better than them, that we would never doubt, that we would never turn astray, that we would never get to the point of unbelief. For today Christ is ours as long as we remain in His Word and faith. So we are to exhort each other with this promise so that we might not end up like the Israelites of old. *Christ Jesus, may we forever hear Your voice that our hearts do not become hardened. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 143—For Your Name's Sake, O Lord**

Hear our prayer, O Lord; none are righteous in Your sight, yet You remain faithful to us. Our souls lie vanquished and sin surrounds us; our spirits faint. May we remember all Your gracious deeds and wonderful works. Even now, stretch out Your Fatherly hand upon us. Every mourning may we hear of Your steadfast love for us, lest we be like those who go down to the pit. Make Your path clear to us and deliver us from all our enemies of sin, death, and the demons. Your will be done, O God, even within us. Accomplish this all for us, not, of course, for our sake, but for the sake of Christ and Him alone. In His righteousness bring our souls out of all trouble. Cut off all enemies. Destroy all adversaries. Enter not into judgment against Your servants, for the Judgment has already been laid upon The Servant. Amen.

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