



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 44:23, 25-26, 1-3, 7-8**

Awake! Why do You | sleep, O Lord?\*

Arise! Do not cast us off for- | ever.

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;\*

arise for our help and re- | deem us.

We have heard with our | ears, O God,\*

our fathers have told us the deeds You did in | days of old:

You drove out the nations | with Your hand,\*

but you planted our fathers because you | favored them.

You have saved us from our | enemies,\*

and have put to shame those who | hated us.

In God we boast | all day long,\*

and praise Your name for- | ever.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Timothy 3:16**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, because You know that we dare not put our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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  
**May God Bestow on Us His Grace**

TLH 500, LSB 823  
Martin Luther



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|---|---|
| <p>1. May God bestow on us His grace,<br/>With blessings rich provide us,<br/>And may the brightness of His face<br/>To life eternal guide us<br/>That we His saving health may know,<br/>His gracious will and pleasure,<br/>And also to the heathen show<br/>Christ's riches without measure<br/>And unto God convert them.</p> | <p>2. Thine over all shall be the praise<br/>And thanks of every nation,<br/>And all the world with joy shall raise<br/>The voice of exultation;<br/>For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,<br/>Nor suffer sin to flourish;<br/>Thy people's pasture is Thy Word<br/>Their souls to feed and nourish,<br/>In righteous paths to keep them.</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 Lord's Call to Faith by His Word**

The great theme of the week of Sexagesima is that the Lord, by the preaching and teaching of His word, is bringing forth that which He purposes, namely, the righteousness of faith in those who hear and believe it. Also, that the disciple who perseveres in faith and abides in this Word will have no lack of trouble in this life, as St. Paul testifies (2 Corinthians 12:10). But this weakness and wretchedness in the eyes of the world is counted among the mysterious mercies of God, for His strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:4-15 – The Parable of the Sower**

There is a reason that we do not call this parable “the parable of the four different soils.” To do so would distract us, for we would naturally want to look at our own hearts and ask, “What kind of soil am I?” Any answer we give would be wrong. “I am good soil” is presumptive. “I am rocky/hard/thorny soil” is to adjudge the Sower as foolish and mistaken in His sowing. Rather, the parable is descriptive of how the divine Word is attacked and choked out in us, the real danger that we Christians face. Be on guard. The devil, the world, and the flesh are hostile and real. But also rejoice that the Divine Sower sows the Word in you, that you would be forgiven and bring forth fruits in patience. *Lord Jesus, sow Your Word in my heart that I would love You. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24 – “Who Shall Ascend the Hill of the Lord?”**

Those with clean hands and a pure heart, they are the ones who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord, the holy temple to offer right worship of the Lord God. This is a problem for us sinners. Our hands are defiled along with our hearts. Who then can be saved? With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible. He ascends the hill of Calvary with clean hands and heart, though weighed down with the sins of all men. There he reconciles all men with the Father and atones for their sin by His suffering and death. He grants righteousness to all by faith. Now, we sinners dare approach the city set on the hill, Christ's Church, for here we receive blessing and righteousness from the God of our salvation. *Lord cleanse me of my sin. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 – Strength in Weakness**

We are totally dependent on God for all things, from the breath we take to the free gift of salvation which comes through Jesus Christ. But our flesh usually believes itself self-sufficient and even worthy of the blessings of our Lord. This is why Paul rejoices in his suffering. He boasts that when he is weak, when he suffers from the maladies of the flesh and even from persecution, he cannot boast of himself in any way. It is then that all he has is Christ. And that is enough. The God who loves you and has redeemed you will sometimes use the trials you face to tear down your idols and bring you closer to Him. When this happens, trust Him. Rest in Him alone. He will not fail you. *Lord, help me in my trials to cling to You alone. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55:10-13 – There is No True Growth Apart from the Word**

Without rain the crops wither and die. The seed that is sowed in the ground cannot bring forth fruit of itself. It needs the rain to water it so that it produces seed for the sower and bread for the eater. So it is with the Word of God. It must shower down upon us as we hear it and believe it so that we can accomplish anything pertaining to God. The Word of the Law crushes our self-righteousness and prepares us for the preaching of His word of Gospel, which promises the forgiveness of sins, adoption as sons, and all the blessings of God to be received by faith. Without this word of God nothing good happens in us. Thanks be to God that He rains down on us His Word and promises! *Lord, open my ears to hear Your life-giving Word. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:26-32 – The Mystery of the Kingdom**

In these two short parables, our Lord would have us contemplate the mystery of how the Kingdom of God comes about in us. It is still a wonder, to me at least, that such small seeds like the mustard seed bring forth the most magnificent of plants. It's almost magical. But this is a picture of how the Kingdom of God comes to us. The most insignificant of things by the world's standards – the words of an itinerant crucified carpenter, bread, wine, water, are the very means through which the risen Lord Jesus brings about His rule among us sinners. Through these means, He creates and sustains faith, forgives sins, and ushers in His reign in our hearts. This isn't magic, but the promise of the Lord of all creation. *Lord, let Your kingdom come. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 – “Continue in the Things You have Learned...All Scripture is God-Breathed”**

These words of Paul to Timothy stand as a mighty bulwark against all forms of enthusiasm, the idea that we know of ourselves what is good, what God wants of us, or that we can create new doctrines apart from the expressed Word of God. Paul commands that Timothy not depart from the things which he has learned, to cling to the Word of Scripture, and to preach that Word as God's own breathed-out Word for teaching, reproof and training in righteousness. There is nothing more certain on earth than God's own Word. Let us, like St. Timothy, cling to the trustworthy Word as taught, and not depart into self-serving myths to serve our itching ears. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word! Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 – Faith's Cry to God**

Praying this psalm with David, we call out to God in the midst of all our troubles, “...I am lonely and afflicted...the troubles of my heart are enlarged...consider how many are my foes.” As the Christian believes and trusts in the words of the Lord Jesus, some of his troubles may decrease, but it is always true that new troubles will come as well. The enemies of the gospel are ever at hand. Our flesh attacks the new man created in us by the Word. The devil is at work to snatch away the Word from our hearts and bring us again under his dominion. So the Christian cries out in faith. In this psalm, he recounts the faithfulness of the Lord and asks for forgiveness and mercy. And the Lord will hear. In faith, we wait on Him to act. *Lord, have mercy on me. Amen.*

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