

“The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 28:8-9, 1-2, 7**

The Lord / is their strength,*
 and He is the saving refuge of His a- / nointed.
 Save Your people, and bless Your in- / heritance;*
 shepherd them also, and bear them up for- / ever.
 To You I will cry, O / Lord my Rock:*
 do not be si- / lent to me,
 lest, if You are si- / lent to me,*
 I become like those who go down / to the pit.
 Hear the voice of my supplications when I / cry to You,*
 when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctu- / ary.
 The Lord is my strength / and my shield:*
 my heart trusted in Him, and / I am helped.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Ephesians 2:4-5**

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord of all power and might, the Author and Giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

TLH 369, LSB 562
 Lazarus Spengler



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|---|---|
| <p>1. All mankind fell in Adam's fall,
 One common sin infects them all;
 From sire to son the bane descends,
 And over all the curse impends.</p> <p>2. Through all man's powers corruption
 creeps
 And him in dreadful bondage keeps;
 In guilt he draws his infant breath
 And reaps its fruits of woe and death.</p> | <p>5. As by one man all mankind fell
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
 So by one Man, who took our place,
 We all received the gift of grace.</p> <p>6. We thank Thee, Christ; new life is
 ours,
 New light, new hope, new strength,
 new powers:
 May grace our every way attend
 Until we reach our journey's end!</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 Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace

Life is a constant juggling act between sin and forgiveness, Law and Gospel, good works and gracious mercy. If you mingle any of these together then you don't come out with either of them, but something completely different. So let's get this straight. If we are talking about your salvation, then the only things that get to enter into the conversation are the things of life, forgiveness, Gospel, and gracious mercy. Only these things from the cross of Christ can provide for your eternal life. But if we are talking about your neighbor, then yes, let's talk about the Law for his benefit and your good works for his welfare. But we dare not mingle the two or else our good works won't be for our neighbor and they certainly won't grant us eternal life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:20-26—Exceeding The Righteousness Of The Pharisees

Your righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. That is a very high wall to scale, for the Pharisees were pretty darn righteous. The only problem is that "pretty darn righteous" isn't righteous enough. One must have the righteousness of God and that can only be conferred upon us by Christ Himself. He is the one Who will fulfill the Law, not leaving one iota to pass away. It is then, once Christ's righteousness is our own, that we can look to the needs of others, put away anger and malice, and love our neighbor as our self. Of course, we will struggle. But the righteousness of Christ is still ours and His forgiveness is still present, ready to forgive us when we sin and want to do better. *Lord Jesus, grant us Your righteousness. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:41-48—The Commandments Which We Love

Finding delight in the commandments of our Lord is an abject impossibility for the sinner that rages within. The sinner within wants nothing to do with God's commandments and nothing to do with God Himself. This is the constant struggle that we wage with the Old Adam. He will constantly pull us back into sin's old ways. That is why this delighting in the things of God must come from outside of us. And so in this psalm we pray for salvation from God according to His promise. This promise and salvation produces in us trust in His Word and delight in His commandments. In that way, we can stand in His Word, even as our enemies assault us. See, even this is a gift. *O Lord, let Your steadfast love and salvation come to me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:3-11—Dead To Sin And Alive To God In Christ Jesus

Baptism does something. It is not just a declaration of our decision for Christ, but spiritual burial and resurrection into the death and life of Jesus. So that His death is now ours, meaning that the victory over sin that He has won has been given to us. And His resurrection is ours as well. And this is not just some future event, but it is a newness of life that is ours this very day. The New Adam has been born within us through the holy waters of baptism so that we can be dead to sin. Sin now has no power or dominion over us. Yes, we will still be tempted. Yes, we will often times succumb to it. But sin's promise of eternal death has been undone because we are forgiven for the sake of Christ. *Jesus, thank You for my baptism into You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50—Forgiven Sinners

There is only one person at this party that we should desire to be: the sinful woman at Jesus' feet. Jesus comes to forgive sinners, that is His only purpose. If you are not a sinner, then Jesus is not for you. Do your best with being a Pharisee, see how far that gets you in the end. But the one who will be with Jesus at the end of days, the one who will dine with Him eternally, is the one who has been brought to faith. It is this type of sinner - the terrified and frightened, the weak and helpless, the repentant and humble - whom Jesus has come to save and forgive. And as a forgiven sinner, we may then rise up day after day and depart in peace, knowing that salvation is ours forever. *Dearest Jesus, grant me faith, forgive my sin, and let me go in peace. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-30—What Deeds Must I Do

When we ask this question we will get an answer that we don't like. If we think that we have fulfilled one part of the Law, we will be shown that we have failed to keep a hundred others. And so, in essence, this is the wrong question to ask. "What must I do?" "Everything!" Ah, it is then impossible to have eternal life. Except, of course, nothing is impossible with God. Which doesn't mean that with God's help we will be able to keep what must be kept for salvation. But instead, that Christ has kept it all and then given to us the very righteousness that is His and His alone. No camel through the eye of a needle there, just an open floodgate into eternal life through the blood of Jesus. *Gracious Father, grant me salvation for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-10—By Grace You Have Been Saved

Works are useless. Or better said, works are useless for salvation. If you want to boast in your works, it is a fruitless endeavor. And not just fruitless, but dangerously damning! For if you boast in your works you are boasting in something unfulfilled at best and horribly empty at worst. Boasting in your works does away with grace and mercy, does away with the Gospel and forgiveness. And if these things are done away with, then all is lost. What then of works? What are they for? Well, they are not for you and not for your salvation. Instead they have been prepared by God for you to do in Christ Jesus for the good and help of your neighbor. *Jesus, save me by Your grace. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28—First and Last...

To be numbered with Christ is to receive the cross. To be numbered with Christ means to be a slave to and for others. You want to be great? Then serve your neighbor! Become lowly for them like your Savior became lowly for you. For greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. Christ has done this for you, and you are called to do this for one another. His life of service is for your salvation. Your life of service is for the good, benefit, and welfare of your neighbor. Don't seek the glories of heaven apart from the cross, for you will never see them. The cross is the only thing that brings salvation: Jesus' cross for you. Only by humility under the cross can you serve your neighbor. *Jesus, make me great by making me least. Amen.*

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