

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- / noointed.
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 2:8**
For by grace you have been saved through faith.

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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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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! |



“The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace”

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

Entering the kingdom of heaven demands a righteousness greater than that of the Pharisees. God bestows this impossible righteousness earned by Christ on you through baptism; it is a gift of grace, not by works, lest you boast. As a result of that righteousness, your new man delights in the law and commandments of God, for you have died to sin with Christ. Your new, spiritually resurrected man bears the image of the perfect man described by the Ten Commandments, a feat that is only possible with God. And now, as the workmanship of God in Christ, your heart is no longer a place of stone, but a pool of water welling up to eternal life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:20-26 Righteousness Exceeding that of the Pharisees

Unless we have righteousness greater than that of the Pharisees, we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. What does that kind of righteousness man look like? He never becomes angry or upset with his brother. And if he did, that kind of righteous man would immediately seek reconciliation. You will never attain to such righteousness on your own. Your sinful flesh likes anger too much—even claims that it's righteous anger. Your sinful flesh enjoys stewing in that anger. Jesus, however, gives you that righteousness within your baptism. In His own baptism, He washed His righteousness into the water that it might be washed onto you. *Heavenly Father, thank You for bestowing Your Son's perfect righteousness on me in Holy Baptism. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:41-48 Righteousness Delights in God's Law

It's quite a struggle sometimes to pray these Psalms. Your sinful flesh does not delight in the commandments of God. Your flesh has not always sought the precepts of God. You do not keep God's Law continually. So how dare you pray such a thing? Because Christ bestowed His righteousness upon you. The new man delights in the Law of God and His commandments. Your new man, a gift given to you in baptism, delights to lift up holy hands and meditate on the statutes of God. You can pray these Psalms because you in fact do delight in God's commands as Christ delighted in them, for His delight in God's Law is yours.

Forgiving Father, keep us mindful of Your commands and give us delight in Your laws. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:3-11 United to Christ's Death and Resurrection

St. Paul declares you to be dead to sin. By virtue of your baptism, you have died to sin. You might wonder how this can be given your ongoing struggle with sin. In one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith, you are at the same time dead to your sin and still struggle with your sinful flesh. While this paradox shall persist until the day when death closes your eyes, death's day is done. For Christ united you to His death in the waters of holy baptism. There, in those waters, you have already died. You cannot die again; death no longer has dominion over you. *Almighty God, we praise You for uniting us to the death and resurrection of Christ; comfort us in the day when death draws near in the knowledge of our ongoing life with and through Christ. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17 Christ Makes you the Perfect Man

The Ten Commandments stand as the pinnacle of God's Law, the pinnacle of human perfection. What did God make you to be? Look at the Ten Commandments. He made you to love Him perfectly, to have no other gods before Him, to use His name in righteousness, to love and serve your neighbor, not even coveting the slightest thing from him. And that is what you are and do. For Christ clothed Himself in human vesture that He might make you the perfect man. He loved God and His neighbor perfectly; then he delivered those deeds and merits to you in baptism, where your human sin became His and His perfect human vesture became yours. *Heavenly Father, in baptism, You clothed me in Christ; purify my heart to love You and my neighbor. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-30 Righteousness and the Wealth of Heaven

The disciples' response to Jesus' teaching on wealth is a bit surprising. Rather than delight at the difficulty it takes for the wealthy to enter heaven, they respond, "Who then can be saved?" They imagine wealth indicates God's attitude. If you have great wealth, God must be happy with you. But Jesus says the opposite: It's impossible for the wealthy to enter heaven. It is, in fact, impossible for anyone to get to heaven "with man." But with Jesus, "all things are possible." The wealth of man always tempts men to trust in themselves and their ability; but the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus leans on God alone. *Almighty Father, You have made all the wealth of heaven mine in baptism; keep me from clinging too closely to the things of this world. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-10 Walking as the Workmanship of God in Christ

God created you anew, in Christ Jesus, to do good works. There's no way around it. As the Lutheran Confessions state, it is necessary to do good works, just not for salvation. Christ saved you by grace. He granted you His own righteousness in the waters of holy baptism. He created you to do His works; they do not earn you righteousness. Rather, walking in these righteous acts is walking out the righteousness God has given to you. It is who you are; it is what you do as his child. You were once dead in sin; now you are alive in Christ Jesus, to be seated with Him eternally. *Guiding Father, You have made us anew to walk as Your children; guide us ever onto the narrow path leading to eternal life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114 From Stone to Water

As the Israelites left Egypt, God worked wonders before them. They crossed the Red Sea and the seas "fled" from their presence. The mountains and hills skipped like rams and lambs as His words echoed forth from his presence. And in that place of desolation and desert, He made water flow forth from the rock and turned a piece of flint into a pool. God continues working in the same way, even today. For your heart was once a stony wasteland, but through your union with Christ, it has become a well of life-giving water, welling up to eternal life. We need not fear and tremble any longer, for we are His dominion and sanctuary. *Lord of all power and might, who governs and directs all things, take up residence in me through Your Word and Sacrament. Amen.*

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