

“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- / 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 **Matthew 5:20**

"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

The Commandments are the thread through this week's readings. God's Law shows what is good and right, what is perfect and godly; that is why it convicts sinners of falling short of its perfection. This too is for our good, however: it drives us to seek the mercy of God in Christ's substitutionary death instead of our own pride. God's work of redemption is called "salvation" because He rescues us from our condition. He reconciles us to the Father, takes away His wrath and the accusations against our sin by answering for them Himself. Thus rescued, at last He enables us to make a beginning in holy and good works. Good works do not yield salvation; His salvation produces good works.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:20-26—Christ, Preacher of the Law**

Christ is rightly known as the worker of the Gospel. He is, however, also the greatest and firmest preacher of the Law. Christ, unlike Moses, was never afraid to let the Law speak at its peak sternness. His sermons make one thing clear: the Law expects absolute perfection. Christ takes all veils away from the Law so that its brightness may strike us directly, exposing and convicting us rather than commending us. It does this to take away all misconceptions of self-righteousness. Thus, it drives us to Christ who alone can avail as our exceeding righteousness. *Lord, reconcile me to Yourself not by my works, but by the terms of Christ's blood. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:41-48—God's Answer for Himself**

The Word of God's truth arms us with an answer for those who come against us, including God Himself. In His Word of absolution, the verdict made possible by the blood of Christ, we have the judgment of acquittal as an answer against the Law's just condemnation of our sins. This is what it means that we "hope in God's judgments:" we hope in His judgment of salvation by Christ. Thus, we delight in His commandments, set at liberty from fear of condemnation and the need to answer for ourselves. *Lord, take not Your Word from me. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:3-11—New and Eternal Life in Baptism**

Baptism accomplishes something not because it is our work but because it is God's promise. It joins us to the death and resurrection of Christ. It seals the benefits of His death and resurrection to us. The new and eternal life we will have at the last day has its beginning already now. To die with Christ is to die to sin. As He is raised from death's power, so by Baptism is the power of sin (death's sting) undone in us. We are enslaved to it no longer. Baptism indicates repentance and faith, which spell the end of sin and death forever. *Lord, raise me daily to walk in newness of life. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17—The Right Things**

The Ten Commandments are not an arbitrary list. They move from God to us to others. He defines life lived in faith toward Him, trusting His Name known through His sanctifying promises; He defines life lived in love toward the neighbor, ordered in the structures of worldly authority. God loves life, marriage and children, possessions, and reputation. He desires our contentment in His gifts. The commandments lay this perfection out for us, often a stark contrast to fallen life. They correct and instruct and drive us to seek mercy elsewhere: in Christ. *Lord, rebuke me and instruct me by Your commandments, that I may love You and my neighbor. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-30—The Value of Recognizing the Impossible**

The good commandments we heard yesterday show a perfect life. They show a life we don't know, because the world and our own hearts are deeply fallen. Jesus rebukes those who try to slip the knot and imagine they have kept the commandments. And to His own disciples, He is not afraid to let this truth be plainly understood: No one can be saved unless they really are saved, that is, unless they are rescued and shown mercy. No one is sufficient for eternal life by his or her works. God, however, is able to save them by Christ's blood instead. *Lord, keep me from pride and restore to me the joy of Your mercy alone. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-10—God's Workmanship**

St. Paul shows well the order of salvation, namely, that salvation comes first, and works follow. Our natural state, since the fall, is to be dead in trespasses and sins. The Law discloses this to us by the light of its goodness. The mercy of Christ alone makes sinners alive again. By His undeserved gift we have salvation. There is no room for any pride in this, since it is not our achievement, but His gracious gift. From such a gift, however—from such faith that receives it—flow many good works. It is not a matter of earned work, but of being His workmanship. *Lord, work in me Your salvation and guide me in the works You have prepared for me. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114—The Lord's Presence**

"The dwelling place of God is with man," says Revelation. He dwells in the praises of His people. Judah was His sanctuary, Israel His dominion. Thus, when they passed through the Jordan, God passed through. Do we imagine that the world should tremble at us? Hardly. It will not move for our sake. But for God, its creator, everything will move at once. Wherever His Word is, we gather. And wherever His Word is among us, all things work together for our good because He is with us. *Lord, sanctify me by Your Word of truth, and do not depart from me. Amen.*