

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 47:1-2, 3, 6-8

Oh, clap your hands, all you / peoples!*
Shout to God with the voice of / triumph!
For the Lord Most High is / awesome;*
He is a great King over / all the earth.
He will subdue the peoples / under us,*
and the nations un- / der our feet.
Sing praises to God, sing / praises!*
Sing praises to our King, sing / praises!
For God is the King of / all the earth;*
sing praises with under- / standing.
God reigns over the / nations;*
God sits on His / holy throne.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:50

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and give to us those things that be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Depends on Our Possessing TLH 425, LSB 732
Unknown



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| 1. All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In His God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart. | 4. When with sorrow I am stricken,
Hope my heart anew will quicken,
All my longing shall be stilled.
To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender;
For in Him alone I build. |
| 2. He who hitherto hath fed me
And to many joys hath led me,
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who did so gently school me,
He who still doth guide and rule me,
Will remain my Help divine. | |



Around the Word Devotions + July 30-August 5, 2017

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“Submission to the Lord of Compassion”

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: **Submission to the Lord of Compassion**

The Lord gives compassion in ways that He sees fit, in times of His own understanding. He grants to His people precisely what they need whether they understand it or not. And He does so in all situations. He is not a God who works fatalistically, but instead is a God who has the past, present, and future all placed under His feet. He works through all things for the good of His people. He grants them the forgiveness of sins and gives them life and salvation through the Word of the cross and the simple things of water, bread, and wine. For all of this, we give thanks and praise to Him, serve and obey Him. We trust that He will accomplish all that He has declared despite all of our doubts and fears. His promise is for me today and every day.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 8:1-9—Once Isn't Good Enough**

Jesus feeds another group of people. He did it once already, and He will surely do it again. His heart-wrenching, gut-churning compassion will never end. The disciples don't get it. "How will we feed them?" Neither do we, "How will God care for me?" He has shown me already once before; no, more often than I can count. But that doesn't matter. I will always be surprised by the gifts that my Lord gives to me, but He will never stop giving them. "They need bread? I will give it to them!" "They need to be forgiven? Here, let's have a feast. My body given for them. My blood shed for them. It is what they need, right here right now. They don't have to go and get it themselves. I will serve them."

Lord Jesus, have compassion on me. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:49-56—Hope In The Promise**

Our hope comes in God's Word and His promise, not in the immediate actions that we see before us. What hope do I have in the midst of suffering except the promise that my Lord is with me in that strife? The Word that I have from my Lord is not that I will be free from suffering, nor that I will be relieved from temporal strife. Instead, it tells me that His grace is sufficient for me. It is a hard thing to believe; something that I don't want to believe and if it were up to me, I wouldn't. But then God's Word is proclaimed again and the voice of Jesus is spoken into my ears. My sins are forgiven, my life is restored, and salvation is granted, even in the midst of this suffering. This is His promise to me.

Heavenly Father, may Your Word grant me hope. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 6:19-23—Slaves**

You are either slaves to God or slaves to sin. There is no middle ground. There is no gray area. And there is no choice. If you are a slave to sin then you sin. As a slave to sin you go where sin goes and do what sin demands: eternal death. But if you are a slave to God (and you are through your gracious baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus) then you present yourself to righteousness. You can do no other. You are a branch of the tree that cannot help but bear fruit in keeping with repentance. For if you are united with Christ, what other fruit could you bear? *Lord of righteousness, keep me from the chains of sin so that I might be enslaved only to You. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 31:23-25—Satisfaction For The Weary Soul**

The Lord chastens and the Lord restores. He breaks with the Law and He revives with the Gospel. This is the life of the Christian, of the "justified while still sinner." It won't end, not until the Last Day. On that Last Day our souls will be satisfied and our mourning will be turned to joy. We don't have to wait until the Last Day. This is a promise that we are given, that we receive, even right now, even amongst suffering, and even as our souls mourn and our fortunes are dismal. Joy isn't synonymous with happiness. Joy is contentment in the victory and promises of Jesus no matter the temporal situation. We are confident that the Day is fast approaching when we will eternally be inhabitants of His Holy Hill. *Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 10:24-31—Worth More Than Sparrows**

Persecution will come; it must. Jesus was reviled by the devil. God knows you are His even when the world screams otherwise and your own conscience causes you to take a step back and doubt the Words of your Lord. Fear no ill, especially from those who can do nothing more than throw stones at the body. You fear, love, and trust in God above all things, knowing full well that His promises are for you. Even if you die at the hands of sinful men, your Lord remembers you in His kingdom and has paid the price for you with His blood. He has promised that you will be with Him in paradise. *Lord Jesus, acknowledge me before Your Father in heaven. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 14:8-23—Worshipped And Stoned**

Paul is both worshipped and stoned in the course of a couple paragraphs. What else could happen to him? To the unbeliever, the apostle is either a god on earth or a heretic that must be killed. His words speak foolishness that the world cannot understand. It is this foolishness that causes Paul to march right back into the lion's den and proclaim Christ crucified all the more. With prayer and fasting he sets up churches to distribute the gifts of God. The cross makes you do foolish things (like believe in forgiveness and proclaim salvation and peace with God through the death of His Son). The cross speaks foolishness and then it delivers what it promises despite how foolish it sounds. *Lord, grant that I may cling to the cross in all things. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 125—The Lord Surrounds His People**

Written during the time of the exile, this Psalm speaks outlandish promises when faced with the realities of the people. Verse two is the most important promise in this Psalm. While sitting in slavery in a foreign land with Jerusalem a hundred miles away, God promises that He is still their God and will be until the end. He will protect. He will execute righteousness. He will punish the wicked and uplift the downtrodden. He will protect His people even in the midst of danger and persecution. God will be their God and they will be His people. Why? Because God has promised it. What more do the people need? He has made that same promise to you. *God of our salvation, never cease to be our God and keep us always as your people. Amen.*

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