

“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalms 98:1-2, 3-4**
 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alle- | luia!*
 His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alle- |
 luia
 His right hand and His | holy arm*
 have gained Him the | victory.
 He has remembered His | mercy*
 and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel.
 All the ends | of the earth*
 have seen the salvation | of our God.
 Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth;*
 break forth in song, rejoice, and sing | praises.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we
 might become the righteousness of God.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Our merciful Father, the God who alone make minds of the faithful to be of
 one will, cause Your people to love what You command and to desire what
 You promise, that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may
 be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 **Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**
 TLH 387, LSB 556
 Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 With exultation springing,
 And, with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
 Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
 How His right arm the victory won;
 Right dearly it hath cost Him.</p> | <p>4. But God beheld my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
 And, mindful of His mercies great,
 He planned my soul's salvation.
 A father's heart He turned to me,
 Sought my redemption fervently:
 He gave His dearest Treasure.</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: He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth

This week we will be reflecting on the nature of judgment. We see both the threat of judgment and the promise and comfort of God's judgment for His people. We see that the difference between blessing and curse is faith. For those who have faith, the blessings of God are secure. For those who are apart from Christ, only one thing remains for them. May God bless us and keep us all steadfast in the faith now and forever that we may see with our own eyes the blessings of salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15 - The Judging Work of the Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit? What does He do? What we find in our text today is our Lord giving a fuller description of the Spirit's work on the earth. The Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. All who reject Jesus' Word remain in their sins. To them the Holy Spirit preaches the convicting Word of the Law which drives them in contrition to their Savior. Because the Holy Spirit abides in the hearts of Christians alone, He brings us the righteousness that comes from faith. Thanks be to God that judgment has not come against us, but as Jesus says, against the devil and his works and ways. Praise God for the Holy Spirit's work among us. *O Lord, I thank You for granting me Your Spirit and I pray that You would keep me in this faith while also giving me courage to be a witness for You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82 – God's Judgment of Government

This is a hard Psalm to understand at first glance, isn't it? Who is it that God is speaking to? He is clearly angry at these beings because they have been unjust. He is speaking to the rulers of the world. He is holding them accountable for their misdeeds, and rightly so. We recognize that all earthly political power and authority come from God. This is what Jesus tells Pilate before He is crucified. It is right for us to be reminded of the proper role of earthly leaders. Their job is to preserve righteous acts in the presence of the world and not to cultivate their own power. In the same way then, we ought not worship them as gods, but we should expect them to rightly do their duty to the Lord. *O Lord, thank You for the gift of good government. Be with all those who exercise oversight in our land that they may be righteous servants of Your will. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21 – The Ears to Hear

This text brings us back to Sunday's devotion. The Holy Spirit's presence in us preserves us from the Father's wrathful judgment. But in Christ we see that there is more to God than wrath or judgment. In Christ, we are the recipients of God's blessings and His gracious love. We are made part of His new creation, people of righteousness. James here today calls us to live out this new life that we have. This includes not giving anger a foothold in our lives. We all get angry from time to time, yes. But we ought not to let that be the defining feature of our lives. Rather, we are called to be quicker to listen to others and to give them the comfort that we ourselves have received from Jesus. *O Lord, please give me the ears to hear those around me that I may better understand my neighbor and thereby not respond in anger to him. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6 – Rejoicing in the Lord

This text is describing how God's people will react when they return home from exile. While we may not experience the terror or sorrow of being exiled from our lands, we still understand the wrath of God and His judgement against sin. We understand those things because we understand the cross of Christ and what Jesus accomplished for us there. Because of Jesus, we too are able to be thankful and to praise God because of the salvation we have received. The judgment against our sin has already been suffered by our Lord in our place and so we can rejoice in the kingdom of God. *O Lord, I thank You for sparing me Your judgment and for giving me Christ Who has suffered in my place and redeemed me from death that I may be Your servant eternally. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36 – Judgmental Jesus?

We don't expect Jesus to talk like this. Jesus is supposed to be nice and kind. He is not supposed to tell people that they will die in their sins. Yet that is exactly what we see in this text today. The judgement of Jesus stands against those who reject Him. But at the same time, we see in this text Jesus telling those who believe in Him that He will set them free. This is the other side of the coin of judgment. Those who are in Christ do not receive the punishment that they deserve, but instead are given life. It is good for us to be reminded sometimes of the true nature of what we have been saved from. We have been saved from a wrath that we deserve because of our own actions. But in Christ, we are forgiven. *O Lord, I thank You for the salvation that You have given me in Jesus. Keep me in this faith that I may remain in Your grace. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 – We are a New Creation

This text brings home what we have been seeing this week in the Scriptures. Jesus became sin for us. He took the punishment that we deserve. The judgment of God against sin is resolved in Christ. The Father's wrath against our sin is poured out onto Jesus. For those who are in Christ then, the issue is resolved. We are a new creation. We are made something new because of the working of God on our behalf through the Holy Spirit. It is by faith that this salvation, that was won by Jesus at the cross, becomes our salvation. Thanks be to God that we are made new! *O Lord, I praise You for making me a new creation. Please ensure that Your work for my salvation is ever before my eyes. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – The Lord Has Done Great Things

As we close this week, I encourage you to reflect on what the nature of God's judgment is. It is not simply God "being mean." It is the righteous creator of the universe condemning that which is evil and corrupting. It is something that you have been spared from in Jesus. As we read this Psalm, we see that God's people rejoice in the aftermath of judgment. Even after God has disciplined His people, they still rejoice over all the good that He has done for them. In the same way, even in these days when so many have mourned and may still be mourning God's righteous discipline, we can still reflect on all the great things our God has done. *O Lord, even in the midst of suffering or trial I know that You are with me and that You continue to do great things for Your people. I pray that You would receive my praise now and forever for Your mighty deeds. Amen.*

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