

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 27:7-9, 1, 11-12

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alle- | luia.*
Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alle- | luia.
The Lord is my light and my sal- | vation;*
whom | shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength | of my life;*
of whom shall I | be afraid?
Teach me Your | way, O Lord,*
do not deliver me to the will of my adver- | saries;
for false witnesses have risen a- | gainst me,*
and such as breathe out | violence.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty, everlasting God, cause us always to have a devout will toward You and to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; 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
We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend**

TLH 223

Unknown



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend,
That Thou didst into heaven ascend.
O blessed Savior, bid us live
And strength to soul and body give.
Hallelujah! | 4. We therefore heartily rejoice
And sing His praise with cheerful
voice;
He captive led captivity,
From bitter death He set us free.
Hallelujah! |
| 2. Ascended to His throne on high,
Hid from our sight, yet always nigh;
He rules and reigns at God's right
hand
And has all power at His command.
Hallelujah! | 5. Through Him we heirs of heaven are
made;
O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid
That we may firmly trust in Thee
And through Thee live eternally.
Hallelujah! |



“He Ascended to Bless His People”

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of May 13-19, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Ascended to Bless His People

Christ is risen, but we still suffer. We have convinced ourselves that Christianity is an escape from death. Christ proclaims a victory over it. We don't need to spend our lives running from our enemies, because they cannot harm us in Christ. Sin, death, and the power of the devil are undone in the resurrection. This isn't an avoidance of death. It's a victory over it. Now, God comforts us even as He saves through Word and Sacrament. He is still present among us, working through His Spirit to give us hope and life. Christ is risen. We will rise.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 – Helper, Comforter, Spirit of Truth

God gives good things to those He loves, but Christians still see great suffering and even martyrdom. God doesn't punish Christians. Christ was punished on the cross for you. It is finished. He is risen. We need help; so He sends the helper, the Spirit of truth, the Comforter. He doesn't deal in false comfort (that death can destroy), but proclaims and even delivers the victory over death to sinners suffering sin, death, and the power of the devil. Christ is risen! The Spirit ties us to that victory over death.

O Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit to grant us comfort, hope, and truth, that we would not fall away in times of trial. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93 – Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier

God did not make the world to show us He is stronger than anything created. The fullness of God isn't revealed in the complicated nature seen by the eye. He revealed Himself to His creation by speaking His decrees. He commanded and ordered creation in a way that not only demands obedience, but builds up that which is called good. He spoke to us by the Word, which was made flesh to dwell among us. Jesus brought holiness to a house corrupted by sin. Even when we rebel against God, the world is not moved.

O Lord, grant us to trust in Your decrees, that we would be saved by Your mighty hand. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 God is a Ridiculous Preacher

Pentecost brings tongues of fire above preachers' heads, but people assumed they were drunk. Each person heard the sermon in his mother tongue. They understood perfectly. Their words seemed ridiculous. They testified of Jesus, who died and rose to save sinners. They spoke boldly about sin and forgave so recklessly that they offended the religious. God grabbed hold of many languages used for evil and clarified them to speak peace right to the heart of each sinner. Jesus was crucified for you. He is risen. Your sins are forgiven. Your baptism ties you to that forgiveness and that eternal life. *O Lord, fill the hearts of preachers with Your Holy Spirit that we may constantly hear Your true Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 – Baptism Now Saves You

The Lord told Ezekiel about baptism, which is the source of new life and makes alive stone-dead hearts. The water and the Word accomplish what we cannot of ourselves. The elements work hope. There is no more disappointment in false idols. There is no more chasing sins that only destroy. This water works life. What's truly amazing is that almost 600 years before John went out in the wilderness to deliver this gift from God, Ezekiel taught us to find comfort in it. Look for God where He has promised to be found. Find God not in your works, but in the water and the Word which accomplishes them.

O Lord, grant that by the waters of our baptism, we may ever cling to You and walk in Your ways. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26 Unity in Hope

"That we all be one." It's a laudable goal. Everyone wants it, I think. Usually we try to achieve it on our own by minimizing our differences. We cast aside doctrine that divides. We paint over our sins that wound. It never actually works. Jesus prays for unity, but then accomplishes it (not by demanding we all get along,) by dying on the cross to unite sinners in forgiveness, life, and salvation. True unity comes from trust in the same promises. God's word unites even as it saves.

Grant to us, dear Father in heaven, true unity rooted in a common faith, that in times of trial, we may all seek shelter together in Your saving might. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29-39 – We are More than Conquerors through Him who Loved Us

"In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." God is stronger than your problems. He is with us, and has promised we will be victorious over the laundry list of everything killing us. We find this victory not in ourselves, by conquering our enemies, but in Him who died and rose for us. He faced all of those things for us, and let them kill Him so we would live. The victory is in the blood of the Lamb.

O Lord, though we struggle against so many enemies, grant us victory through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97 – Evil doesn't pay

"You who love the Lord, hate evil!" God wants you to live, and evil won't accomplish it. God preserves the lives of His saints. He delivers them by bringing light to darkness, declaring sinners righteous by the death and resurrection of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our God. Christians hate evil because it crumbles. We love God because He first loved us and saved us when we could not save ourselves.

O Lord, teach us to love what is good in Your sight, that we would ever hope in Your salvation and strive to serve our neighbors. Amen.

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