

5

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

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alle- | lua.*
 Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alle- |
 lua.
 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 John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Ascended to Bless His People

Christ's Ascension into heaven begins the absence of His visible form among men, but the beginning of His dwelling among men through the work of the Holy Spirit. He promised the disciples He would send the Holy Spirit, who came and inspired the apostles not only to preach and teach, but also to write the Gospel. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus removes our hard hearts and gives us new hearts of flesh that are united around the Truth of God's Word. Finally, our Ascended Lord intercedes for us so we have nothing to fear but give Him heartfelt thanks and praise.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 — Helper Comes to Bear Witness

Jesus ascends to heaven to send the Holy Spirit, the Helper. He sends the Holy Spirit to deliver real help in times of need. For the apostles, this help would consist of making the good confession about who Christ is and what He did for mankind. The Holy Spirit also inspired the words of these apostles and Gospel writers so that He might also be a helper to you. For you have this Holy Spirit inspired Word, so that when it comes time to speak of the hope you have, when it comes time to face persecution and trial, when men revile you on account of Christ's name, you have a word—the Word—to speak. *Heavenly Father, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit and grant us courage to confess you before the world. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93 — Jesus Reigns

The old ditty says, "He's got the whole world, in His hands . . ." As annoying as the ditty can be, it's true. What's remarkable, however, is that the entire universe sits in the hands of a man—the God-man—Jesus. The Psalmist praises the Lord who established the earth, from everlasting. Mightier than the floods that once ravaged the entire earth, Jesus stands a Lord over all creation. And He does so for the benefit of His people. He stands established forever that His promises and decrees might be trusted to the end of time. And the decree is this: You are His child, washed in the flood of Baptism. Mightier than any sea. *Heavenly Father, defend us against every danger of body and soul, and bring us at last to Your everlasting kingdom. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 — A Promise Fulfilled

In Genesis, God confused the language of mankind because they sought to make a name for themselves. On Pentecost, God undoes Babel and gives to mankind by His Spirit a new language: the Gospel. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit who would remind the apostles of everything Jesus had taught. On Pentecost, Jesus fulfills His promise. The Holy Spirit comes and inspires the apostles to preach and teach and write the Gospel. This gospel has united Christians all over the world in one language and tongue, giving all thanks and praise to God for what Christ has done for us. *Ascended Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for sending to the Holy Spirit to Your apostles that they might write preach, proclaim, and write the blessed Gospel for us. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 — The "Mini Pentecost"

God promised that He would bring new life to the people of Israel. The ancient people were stubborn and hard-hearted. God had to make Ezekiel's forehead "as hard as flint" in order to warn them; Ezekiel means, "He hardens." Ezekiel's hard forehead reflected the hard hearts of the people who continues to worship the false gods on the high places. Just like us, they were incapable of saving themselves. And so, God promised to save them by removing their stone hearts and giving them hearts of flesh; by sprinkling them clean with water. So also God does for us in the "mini Pentecost" of Baptism, wherein He sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. *Father, thank you for sending your Spirit into our hearts and washing us clean by Water and Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26 — United by the Holy Spirit

Numerous well-meaning Christians have sought to create a united Christians church on earth. Large conferences all throughout the 20th century were aimed at creating one, visible, united Christian church to fulfill the prayer of Jesus "that they may all be one." Such attempts will always fail, for unity is not created but given. Jesus ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to unite the church. All who cling in faithfulness to Jesus Christ alone are already united in the Truth. For thus Jesus also prayed, "that they may be sanctified in truth." For the unity brought by the Holy Spirit only exists around the Truth of Christ. *Father, send Your Holy Spirit upon Your Church, that she might be united in the Truth. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29-39 — He Intercedes For Us

The passage provides much comfort for God's children: we have nothing to fear. When we look at our sinful lives, we of course have much to fear—not from the elements, but from He who created the heavens and the earth. The great comfort of this passage is not simply that we have nothing in all creation to fear, but that the Son of God, who died and was raised by God, intercedes for us in heaven. He ascended to heaven that He might stand as the mediator between the wrath of God and sinful humanity. Tribulation and persecution and famine etc. might come, but they cannot harm us. God's Son intercedes for us. *Forgiving Father, we praise You for not looking at our sin, but through Christ Jesus, who for our sake died and was raised. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97 — The Earth Rejoices in the Ascended Lord

The creation continues to groan under the pains of sin; the earth still melts in fear before Him and the earth trembles. And yet, despite the fearful world, the children of Zion rejoice. The ascended Lord not only hates evil, but He has conquered it. He preserves His saints. And the whole earth will one day rejoice with them to see the Lord's return. In the meantime, the earth and the children of Zion face the daily struggle against the world with hope and joy, for the end has already been decided, the victory already won. The wicked will pass away, but the righteous who rejoice in the Lord will be delivered. *O Lord, we rejoice in Your salvation and give thanks for Your holy name. Amen.*

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