



“He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9**
 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.
 Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!*”
 Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-
 | selves to You.
 Come and see the | works of God;*
 He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
 Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!*
 And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,
 He keeps our soul among the | living,*
 And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Lamentations 3:24**
 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; through the same 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 **Like the Golden Sun Ascending**
 TLH 207, LSB 548
 Thomas Kingo



1. Like the golden sun ascending,
 Breaking through the gloom of night,
 On the earth his glory spending
 So that darkness takes to flight,
 Thus my Jesus from the grave
 And Death's dismal, dreadful cave
 Rose triumphant Easter morning
 At the early purple dawning.

2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us,
 Thou hast conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because Thou didst arise
 And hast opened Paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.

4. Thou hast died for my
 transgression,
 All my sins on Thee were laid;
 Thou hast won for me salvation,
 On the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise
 And shall meet Thee in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory;
 I shall lift my head in glory.

6. For the joy Thy advent gave me,
 For Thy holy, precious Word;
 For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,
 For Thy blest Communion board;
 For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
 For Thy resurrection morn,
 Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,
 And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

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 Give Us Believing Joy

Believing joy is more than a feeling, and thank God that it is. To equate joy with a feeling or an emotion is to equate joy with something that is subjective and movable. While joy might accompany happiness and pleasure, there is no promise that it will. In fact, we may very well suffer at different points in our life, but that does not mean that we have no joy. Our joy is contingent on the objective fact that Christ is risen from the grave and has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for us. Our joy is connected to the objective fact that He gives that victory to us in time and space through Word and Sacrament. This may bring a smile to my face, or I may still wail with tears, but the joy of Christ's victory means that neither of those emotions affect my reality.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-24—Sorrow and Joy

Our joy is not a feeling, it is an objective fact. In our text, Jesus is speaking to His disciples on the night that He is betrayed. They will have great sorrow. Everything that they thought was real will be seemingly dashed to pieces. In a fallen world with sin, disease, death, and pandemic it seems as if sorrow is inevitable. But we do not live as those who have no hope. We do not live as those who have no joy. Our joy is not connected to our present situation, however good or bad it might be. Our joy is connected to Christ: His cross, His resurrection, His ascension. We do not see the Lord, but He is ascended with all things placed under His feet. We have Him in His Word, promising us that what He has, we have too. It may not seem like it today or tomorrow, but Christ is still risen and ascended, and that means the world. *Jesus, turn our sorrow to joy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:25-31—Strength To The Faint

There is a bigness to God, a bigness that is unfathomable. Isaiah speaks about it in our text. "Who is like God?" he asks. And then He shows how big God is by explaining how much He has created. All of that is true, but none of that is of any comfort unless that big, bold, powerful God is for you. That is the last part of Isaiah 40. God is for you. Not only may you take comfort in the fact that God is bigger than anything that may dismay you, but while you are being dismayed by the things of this fallen world He increases your strength and mounts you up on eagles wings. All of that is great flowery language, but how? How does He do this for you? Here it is not His bigness, but His meekness. The cross is given to you in simple things like His Word, water, bread and wine. *Holy One, when we become faint renew our strength in the cross of Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20—Enduring Sorrows

A Christian is the most free of any man and subject to none, while at the same time being the greatest servant and subject to all. This is the seemingly conflicting state of our affairs that Peter is speaking about. Christ has freed us from bondage under anything, and so as free men we willingly place ourselves in subjection to our neighbor for his good and benefit. We realize that the government is God's tool to protect the innocent and punish the evildoers. Thanks be to God! Let us subject ourselves to them for the good of our neighbor. The whole servant-mentality is easy for Christians to speak about academically. The hard part is when a corona-infested world makes us put it into practice. Our natural reaction is to push back. But if Christ made Himself a servant to all, shouldn't His body endure suffering as well? *Suffering Servant, may we serve others as You serve us. Amen*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26—Waiting Patiently

Waiting patiently is one of those things that is easy to say but difficult to do. Sometimes the waiting can be optional. Other times (and it appears as if we are in one of those times) the waiting isn't optional. It is thrust upon us and we have no choice in the matter. It is good that we should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord, not just during these times, but in all times. But whether we can sit in silence or not, the greatest comfort and hope is that our Lord's steadfast love never ceases. He knows that our soul is weighed down. He remembers the worm-wood and the gall. So yes, we should be patient and wait for the Lord. We know for certain that the mercies of our Lord never come to an end. They are new every morning; whether we are patient or frantically spinning in circles. *The Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in Him. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16—In Every Way

We forget that Jesus was tempted. It's one thing for Jesus to overcome temptation as God, that's easy. God can do anything. But to be tempted like we are, in our flesh? Not even the first Adam in his perfect state could overcome the temptation to be like God. But here is God who takes on our flesh, even as man is tempted to take it off. This is the High Priest that we have: A High Priest who is like us in every way except sin. He is a High Priest who knows what temptation is because He is man. And as High Priest He can offer up prayers on our behalf as we struggle with temptation. He does this because he was offered up, once and for all, as the sacrifice that cleanses and forgives each and every time we have been unable to resist temptation. *High Priest, may we receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Amen*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-14—St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

Jesus is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. Phillip says a very Phillipy or Petery or fill-in-your-name-here thing. "Show us the Father." I can't blame him though. I want to see God too. I want to see the Father right now, in the way that I deem best. "Because surely it can't be through this Jesus fellow. Surely it can't be through simple things like Word and water and bread and wine. Surely there must be a better way to see God the Father," I say. No, there isn't a better way. If you want to know God, if you want to see the Father, look no further than Jesus. And if you want to see Jesus, look no further than where He has promised that He will be: in the Church, in His Word, wetted on foreheads, placed on our tongues, and poured down throats. *Lord Jesus, show us the Father through your Word and Spirit, and it is enough for us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146—Praise the Lord!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live. What comfort can princes bring me? They are but sinners just like me. They too will end up in the grave someday. So where should my help come from? I should, it must, it can only come from You, O Lord. For You have created all things and therefore have all things under Your feet. Your promise for me is that You will keep me in the faith. You will bring about justice for me, even though I don't deserve it. You will give earthly and heavenly food for my good. You will set me free from the bondage to sin and death. You will open my eyes to Your ways. You will watch over and protect all those who cannot protect themselves. You, above all things and all princes, will reign forever. And because You have made me to be one with You, I too will reign through You. Praise the Lord! Amen.

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