

5

**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 95:6-7, 1-4**

O come, let us worship and / bow down:\*  
let us kneel before the Lord our / Maker.  
For He is our God; and we are the people of his / pasture,\*  
and the sheep / of His hand.  
Oh come, let us sing / to the Lord!\*

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our sal- / vation.  
Let us come before His presence with thanks- / giving;\*

let us shout joyfully to / Him with psalms.  
For the Lord is the / great God,\*  
and the great King a- / bove all gods.  
In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;\*  
the heights of the hills are His / also.

6

**SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Revelation 20:6**

Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him.

7

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

8

**PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; 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**

**In the Midst of Earthly Life**

TLH 590, LSB 755

Martin Luther



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| <p>1. In the midst of earthly life<br/>Snares of death surround us;<br/>Who shall help us in the strife<br/>Lest the Foe confound us?<br/>Thou only, Lord, Thou only.<br/>We mourn that we have greatly erred,<br/>That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.<br/>Holy and righteous God!<br/>Holy and mighty God!<br/>Holy and all-merciful Savior!<br/>Eternal Lord God!<br/>Save us lest we perish<br/>In the bitter pangs of death.<br/>Have mercy, O Lord!</p> | <p>3. In the midst of utter woe<br/>All our sins oppress us,<br/>Where shall we for refuge go,<br/>Where for grace to bless us?<br/>To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.<br/>Thy precious blood was shed to win<br/>Full atonement for our sin.<br/>Holy and righteous God!<br/>Holy and mighty God!<br/>Holy and all-merciful Savior!<br/>Eternal Lord God!<br/>Save us lest we perish<br/>In the bitter pangs of death.<br/>Have mercy, O Lord!</p> |
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**"The Dormition of Believers"**

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: The Dormition of Believers**

The readings this week have two themes: the resurrection and God's firmness. We are awaiting the resurrection. We trust in God's steadfast love. His immovable care and strength for us is the content of our faith. His promise of everlasting life is our confident hope. Both lead us to love, despite a world where love appears weak and pointless. We do not yet see all things in subjection to Him, but we will.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:18-26—Death is But a Slumber**

We Christians say a strange thing about our dead. We say what Jesus says: "They are only sleeping." And as the crowds laughed at Jesus, they mock us also. But we expect the resurrection of the dead. We know that our Lord Jesus Himself is risen, never to die again. He is the powerful Word incarnate, God's promise given to faith. His Word is powerful because He is powerful. None who trust in Him will be ashamed. Thus, at the last day, He will indeed waken the dead as easily as waking a child from a little nap.

*I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125—Steadfast and Immovable**

The Lord is the strategic terrain and the confident protection of the Christian. He is like the mountains surrounding Jerusalem and its temple. But, of course, Jerusalem and its temple have long since fallen. Is this Psalm really so comforting? Jesus says, "heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word will never pass away." The Lord and His Word are stronger even than fortified cities. To dwell in Him is to dwell securely. He gives peace to His people. He makes the heart upright and protects the ones He declares righteous.

*Lord, establish me in confident trust in Your immovable promises. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-14—Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding**

Redemption is the forgiveness of sins. It is being delivered from darkness into light. It is to have a share in the Father's inheritance. All who have it are rightly called "saints." And that is you also. Paul prays not that your life be free of trouble, but rather that you be strengthened with God's own might for endurance and patience with joy, and that you may walk well, bearing fruit in every good work. It is the will of God—fully accomplished—that you be redeemed. And filled with this knowledge, we are well prepared for every trial and temptation.

*Lord, grant me an increase in faith, love, and hope. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 51:9-16—You are My People**

Psalm 54 repeats the refrain, "In God I will praise His Word, in Him will I put my trust; what can man do to me?" The Lord has put His own words in our mouths, both for faith and for our prayers. But against this our sinful flesh and the world tempt us to be fearful. God must remind us with all these rhetorical questions, "what can man do against you?" "Can anything separate you from My love in Christ Jesus?" If the Lord has established the heavens and the foundations of the earth, He is able to establish you also.

*Give me fresh joy and gladness, Lord, and awaken Your comfort for me. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: John 5:17-29—One God, One Will, One Judgment: Eternal Life**

Let no one deceive you into thinking that Jesus never claimed to be God. The Jews killed Jesus because He claimed to be both equal with God and God's Son. What One does, the Other does. They are united in will and purpose and love. The Father's will is to judge the world in His Son. Thus, whoever believes Jesus' Words believes also the One who sent Him, and has God's own verdict: You have passed from death to life. All that awaits us, then, is the resurrection: God's own voice declaring again what is already ours—eternal life.

*Lord, make me delight in Your voice now and at the last day. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10—The Body**

The tent of the body is not permanent. Sin has made it so. But the hope of the Christian is not to be free of the tent, left out in the cold. Our hope is not to become disembodied spirits: we expect the resurrection of the body. Whenever your body gives you trouble, lament to God—not in hope that you will die and be free of the body, but rather that you long for the day when you are further clothed in sinless, painless, trouble-less life. We will put off this body and be with the Lord soon enough; but at last we will put on immortality.

*Lord, grant me courage in the body and Your Spirit. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18:1-15—The Lord's Delightful Anger**

Luther paints the terrifying picture of being in the dungeon of a castle under siege. The walls shake with each bombardment, the lights flicker, the roar of enemy war cries chills the bone. You can imagine what a feeling of impending doom that might wash over you—unless you are in the dungeon of sin, death, and the devil, and those angry enemies bearing down on the castle are Your Lord's troops led by Christ Himself. God is angry in this Psalm, fierce and terrifying. But He is arising in response to your distress call. He is rousing Himself to save you from your enemies.

*I will love You, O Lord, my strength. Amen.*