



“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.*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 146:5**
 “Happy is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help; whose hope is in the
 LORD his God.”

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.
3. 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.
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.
5. 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.
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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 22-28, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy

“Happy is the one who has the God of Jacob for his help; whose hope is in the LORD his God” (Psalm 146:5). Happy because we know that death is dead, sin is forgiven, Jesus is raised, and our hope and salvation are sure. We have a profound happiness and joy in Christ, knowing that God has kept His word, destroyed the devil, and restored us to life by the death and resurrection of Jesus. His blood is our righteousness. His death is our life. His resurrection is our hope. His name is our joy. His promises are our hope. Happy, indeed, is the one who has the God of Jacob for their helper.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-23 The Joy of Resurrection

“A little while” Jesus says, and they will not see Him. He will be dead and buried. But then, “a little while,” and they will see Him. He will rise from the grave and visit His disciples. Then their joy will be complete. Then their prayers will be answered. Then they will know that their Rabbi and Teacher is their Savior and their God. Jesus’ resurrection also gives us joy. We know that sin, death, and the devil no longer own us. We are free from their tyranny. We are forgiven, and on the last day we will rise and stand with Jesus, our Savior and our God, in a life that never ends. *Dear Jesus, give us the joy of Your resurrection as we wait for our own resurrections. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75: God’s Work of Humbling and Exalting

Psalm 75:7, “God is the judge. He puts down one, and sets another up.” Our lives are in the Lord’s hands. He exalts. He humbles. He gives, He takes away. The haughty He casts down. The rich He sends empty away. The lowly He exalts. The humble He saves. The Humble One He brought out of the grave, and exalted Him, giving Him the name above every name: Jesus Christ, Our Savior. We rejoice that our lives are in the Lord’s hands, because His hands were crucified for us. His hands bleed for our redemption. His hands hold nothing back. “God is the judge,” and by the death and resurrection of Christ, He has judged us fit for eternal life. *Unto You, O God, we give thanks, for Your name is near us with Your gifts of life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20: Free to Do Good

“Live as free people,” writes St. Peter, “but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for wickedness, but live as servants of God.” This is a mystery of the Christian life: we are free to live as servants. We are free from the condemnation and coercion of the law, which means we are free to love the law and begin to follow the law (loving God and our neighbor). We are set free from the fear of death, which gives us the freedom to die, to lay down our lives for our friends. The freedom that the death of Jesus wins for us is a freedom from fear, and a freedom to love, and delight in the gifts of God’s mercy. *O Jesus, set us free from fear by the preaching of Your resurrection. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26: New Mercies

“The LORD’s mercies are new every morning.” What does that mean? In many ways the Lord’s mercies never change. The preaching of the cross of Jesus is the same, day after day. The news of the empty tomb will be the same good news tomorrow and the next day until the last day. How, then, are God’s mercies new? They are new, every morning, for us sinners. The devil is always troubling us with our sin, tempting us with grief and guilt, as we always wonder if God’s mercy is enough to cover our latest failures. The answer? Yes! His mercy is new every morning. Our Lord Jesus shows up every day with a surprising dose of kindness and grace. His forgiveness covers all our sins, every day. *Great is Your faithfulness, O Lord, my hope is in You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11: Room in the Father’s House

Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you.” What a beautiful text. Jesus promises that His death, resurrection, and ascension make a place for us in the Father’s house. Now, we want to remember that the problem with the Father house is not that it wasn’t big enough, like Jesus had to go and convert the garage into a bedroom. The reason there was not a place for us in the Father house is because there is not a place there for sin, and I am a sinner. But the death of Jesus forgives our sins. His blood cleanses us from all iniquity. And now there is a place for us. Now the door is open. Now, by His death, by His forgiveness, where He is, we will be also. *Lord Jesus, thank You for preparing a place for me in the Father’s house by Your death and forgiveness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16: The Comfort of Jesus’ Temptations

Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted and troubled. Jesus knows what it is like to mourn and be sad. Jesus knows the feelings of loneliness and despair, of pain and loss, of sickness and death. He was tempted in every way like us. He knows. He knows your sorrow, your suffering, your agony, your despair, your fear, your trouble, your confusion, your doubt, your tears, your temptations. He knows, and still He died for You. Still He loves you. Still He forgives your sins. And still He prays for you. That’s the promise of this beautiful text, and the encouragement it gives us. Jesus knows our trouble, and He lives to carry us through it to life everlasting. *Jesus, remember me before the Father, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146: God and the Happy

“Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help” (Psalm 146:5). We hear a lot of talk about happiness: the key to happiness, the secret of happiness. I even saw a book, “The Happiness Project.” According to the Scriptures, happiness is not a mystery. If you have God as your Helper, you are happy. If you have God as your Savior, you are happy. This, of course, does not mean that Christians walk around with plastic smiles covering up the troubles of this life. But it does mean that we who trust in Christ in life and death know that death has no power over us, that there is no condemnation for our sin, and that in spite of all the troubles of this life, God our Creator and Redeemer, is also our friend. *O Lord, be our Helper. Amen.*

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