PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Luke 24:5-7, Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9

He is risen, Alleluia! Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alleluia! Remember how He spoke to you? Alleluia! “The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.” Alleluia! O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth,* who have set Your glory above the heavens! For You have made Him a little lower than the angels,* and You have crowned Him with glory and honor. You have made Him to have dominion over the works of Your hands:* you have put all things under His feet. O Lord, our Lord,* how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning: 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 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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands

1. Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands,
For our offenses given:
But now at God’s right hand He stands
And brings us life from heaven:
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us:
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong His love! to save us.
See, His blood doth mark our door:
Faith points to it, Death passes o’er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Hallelujah!
**THEME OF THE WEEK:** He is Risen to Overcome Death

Christ is risen! Alleluia! This is the week to celebrate the salvation that Jesus has won for you through the greatest miracle ever. Jesus has risen from the dead and the life He now lives He lives to God; but it belongs to you as well. His resurrection shows that sin, death, and the devil have been defeated and the victory belongs to all of God’s people. You need not fear sin, death, and the devil for Jesus has won the victory over them. This week of celebration will serve as a reminder that your life is founded upon the resurrection of Jesus and His life is the basis for all you do in serving your neighbor in love.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 16:1-8 Christ is risen!

You may strive to put off death by diet, exercise, doctor visits, or not thinking about it. However, death will come. Death has been called the great equalizer of all people. As God’s people we have the comfort of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. When we see Jesus standing outside the grave and the angels proclaim that Jesus is risen, we know that this is what awaits us. You can put off death for a little while but in the end, death is but a portal to everlasting life. Jesus lives and so we, the people of God, will live forever. Dear God, thank You for the resurrection of Jesus that gives me life eternal. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 57 In the Midst of Lions

Verse 4 says that the “soul is in the midst of lions.” We truly are in the midst of many perils in this life. They can endanger us, cause us to worry, to fear, to not trust in the Lord. In the midst of the lions that we live among our heart is steadfast (v. 7). Jesus has conquered all that assails us by his resurrection. The lions have no power over us. We belong to the one who is more powerful than all the assaults of this evil world. Because of Jesus’ victory we will sing and make melody. God is faithful to us even in the midst of all the lions. Dear Spirit, comfort me in the midst of all afflictions of body, mind, and soul. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Celebrate the Festival

The Festival of the Resurrection of Christ continues. Easter is not just a day: it is a season. Every day we live here on earth is a celebration of the eternal life that we already possess through faith in Jesus Christ. We celebrate this festival with sincerity: that is, with purity. We have been made clean in the blood of this risen Lamb and we can rightly celebrate the holy festival of the Resurrection. We celebrate in truth because we know the facts of the Resurrection to be true. God’s Word does not lie. Let us celebrate that He who has died lives again. Heavenly Father, cause my soul to celebrate with sincerity and truth the miracle of Your Son’s Resurrection. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 52:13-15 Astonishment

The prophet tells us that people will be astonished at what the suffering servant, Jesus, will look like on Good Friday. In the same way, we are astonished on Easter Sunday that Jesus has come back from the dead, just as He said He would. The astonishing thing is that Jesus does something that is beyond belief and then, by the work of the Holy Spirit, we believe it. People don’t come back from the dead, but Jesus lives, and we are astonished that all the prophecies are true. Almighty Father, You have done amazing things through the work of Your Son: send Your Spirit to me to strengthen my faith. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 28:1-8 Like Dead Men

When the angel appeared at the open tomb the guards trembled and became like dead men. See the irony. The only ones who are acting as if they are dead are men who are alive. He who should be dead is living. The living Christ lives so that He can make us to be living people. Just as He called out to Lazarus and raised him from the dead, He calls out to you and brings you life. He pulls you out of your grave and gives you the greatest gift so that you may no longer be like a dead man. Now you are like the Living Man: Jesus Christ. Dear Jesus, thank You for the life You have given to me. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Peter 1:3-12 Serving Future Generations

The prophets served not themselves but you. They spoke to you about the coming victory of Jesus over death. God continues to use people to speak His word to future generations. Pastors are trained and they serve the future generations. Laitly confess and teach their faith to those who are young. God’s Word from 2,000 years ago continues to serve us with the living Christ. It will continue to be powerful and effective for generations to come until Jesus returns. Give thanks for those who have spoken God’s Word to you and be ready to share it in turn. Life-giving Spirit, continue to work through the Word to bring life to people. Amen.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 113 Praise the Lord for the Resurrection!

The Lord has done marvelous things and He still does! He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap (v. 7). He has raised Jesus from the dead. So we bring our praises before the Lord. The Lord takes that which is nothing and makes it something. In the Resurrection of Jesus, the Lord makes you into something. He brings you from death to life: from sin to forgiveness: from shame to honor. Praise the Lord for all that He has done for you. O Lord, I will praise You all of my days. Amen.