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 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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK
We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ: 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.

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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK
We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ: 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.

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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK
We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ: 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.

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 PRAYER OF THE WEEK
We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ: 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.

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.
**THEME OF THE WEEK:** He is Risen to Overcome Death

Very likely, you are reading these devotions in some sort of quarantine because of the COVID-19 virus. It is also very likely that your celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord will look a bit different for you and your loved ones. But in the midst of all things we experience in this life, the changes and chances of this world, one thing remains the same, the Lord is risen. The implications of this are so far-reaching as to give meaning to our very past, to guide our present, however uncertain it may be, and shape our future. How? With the earth-shattering impact of the defeat of death itself, the forgiveness of our sins, and the hope of the life to come.

**SCULPTURE:** Mark 16:1-8 – Easter: “O Death, Where is Your Sting?”

Why do we need fear you, O Death? Why do we shake in our boots when you rear your ugly head at us, when you swallow up our loved ones and fill our hearts with anxiety? Why do we need fear you? You are dead yourself, aren’t you? For my Lord has been swallowed by you, and He has punched a hole right through you. The stone is rolled away. You could not hold Him. Yes, you will swallow me up too, even as you swallowed Him. But He walked out of you, and so will I. All who have loved His appearing will walk out of that hole in your greedy gut to life immortal. Jesus unites with me and has promised me this. Death, I will not fear you. You are dead. Jesus is alive. Lord Jesus, make my heart to rejoice every day of this resurrection life in You. Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** Psalm 57 – “Be Exalted, O God”

David wrote this hymn when he was chased by blood-thirsty Saul. Though his enemies surrounded him and laid snares for him, David is confident to boast of the faithfulness of God and His steadfast love. This is the confidence that is born of faith. So it is when our ancient enemies, the devil, the world, and our sinful nature hem us in and cause us to doubt the graciousness of the Triune God, we rebuke them, and trust in God all the more. In the midst of tribulation dear Christian, take up the hymnal and the psalter like David, and sing to the Lord in the midst of your trial whatever it may be. For God will “send from heaven and save” in Jesus Christ. Be exalted, O Lord Jesus, let Your glory be over all the earth! Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 – Christ, Our Passover Lamb

In Egypt, God told His people to slaughter a perfect sacrificial lamb, smear its blood over their doors and lintels, and eat of the lamb in the safety of their home. Death would pass over and strike down the first-born of the Egyptians. What God foreshowed in Egypt, He revealed fully in the sacrificial blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, whose blood marked the wood of the cross and atoned for not the sins of a household, but for a whole world. No longer does the household of God, the Church, eat lamb and unleavened bread of the Passover, but the celebratory feast of the Lord’s Supper. His true body and blood risen from the dead. Lord Jesus, You are the true Passover Lamb, through Whom we are spared from death. Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** Isaiah 52:13-15 – He Shall Be High and Lifted Up

The Lord will be high and lifted up. He shall be exalted. Once so marred and beyond the semblance of men, in His resurrection and ascension the Lord now waits for the time when every eye shall behold Him as He is. No more the man of sorrows, no more the pitiable figure beyond the form of the children of men, but the Crucified One - the One who was pierced, the One who was dead and is dead no longer. He will be exalted in His coming to judge the earth. So let the message of His Word startle the nations. Let it startle you. For He is coming. As surely as He is risen, so is His coming. And He will come for you, to be exalted with Him. Lord Jesus, grant us true repentance and faith that we may receive with joy your coming. Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** Matthew 28:1-8 – After the Sabbath

The two Marys go to the tomb on the first day of the week. It is the day after the Sabbath, notes St. Matthew. It is not an incidental thing. It is the day after the rest of the Lord Jesus rested, even in death, according to the commandment. He rests in the tomb on Holy Saturday, the Sabbath day, fulfilling the commandment with Himself, and rises with the sun on Easter morning, the first day of the week. In Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, we live now in an eternal rest, an eternal Sabbath. Every new day is a day on which to hear preaching and God’s word, pray, praise, and give thanks, for Jesus is our Sabbath rest. Rest in Him. Lord Jesus, You have conquered all our enemies, grant that we would rest in Your love. Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** 1 Peter 1:3-12 – Now and Not Yet

St. Peter encourages his hearers with the best of all news - that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and we are born again to a living hope of an inheritance that is permanent, untouched by the decay of this life. This inheritance, our own resurrection from the dead and our eternal bliss with God and all the saints is kept in heaven for us. It is ours even now by faith in Christ. But even as we have it now by promise, we suffer the effects of this fallen world. We are grieved by sickness and death, trials and tribulations. Keep the faith dear Christian! Your faith is being tried and tested. Your hope is not in vain. You must endure yet a while. Jesus loves you and is coming back for you. Lord Jesus, come quickly and keep me faithful. Amen.

**SCULPTURE:** Psalm 118 – Luther’s Most Beloved

When Dr. Luther was kept at Coburg Castle during the Diet of Augsburg, he wrote to a friend, “[Psalm 118] is more precious to me than the honor, wealth, and power of the pope, Turk, Emperor, or of the whole world, and I wouldn’t be willing to exchange it for them all.” Indeed this psalm is an embarrassment of comfort in all our woes. Here, dear Christian is the steadfast love of the Lord, the refuge of the weary, the prayer of the saints under duress, the Lord’s Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem to be rejected by the builders, His resurrection, and indeed our own resurrection from the dead. Let this psalm be upon your lips as it was on Luther’s and countless other saints, and let God comfort you through it. Save us, we pray, O Lord!

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week’s author is Pastor Brandon Ross. He and his wife Mackenzie have four children. He is pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Johnstown, Colorado (www.faithjohnstown.org).