

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

He is risen, Alle- | luia!\*  
Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!  
Remember how He spoke to you? Alle- | luia!\*  
“The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.”  
Alleluia! Alle- | luia!  
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 un- | der His feet.  
O | Lord, our Lord,\*

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 28:6

“He is not here. He is risen!”

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

**8** 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.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands**

TLH 195, LSB 458

Martin Luther



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!



“He is Risen to Overcome Death”

**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 16-22, 2017

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

Christ is risen indeed! The tomb is empty. The grave is open. Death is conquered for Jesus and for all His people. Everything that Jesus does is for us. This includes His suffering, His death, His burial, and His resurrection. His getting up out of the grave means our life, our hope, and our salvation. God be praised for the resurrection of Jesus, and God be praised for the eternal life this has won for us. Amen.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 16:1-8: "He is not here"**

Of all the unexpected things in the world, perhaps the most unexpected is an empty tomb. Dead is dead. If you put a dead person in the tomb, they stay there. But Jesus is the Author of Life, the first-fruits of them that sleep. He is the Destroyer of death and the Destroyed of the one who had the power of death: the Devil. Jesus the One who brings life and immortality to light, and He does all of this for you. We, then, rejoice in the preaching of the angels, "He is not here" because this means that He is alive, and that His life and His death are for our salvation. *Oh Lord, we thank You for Your resurrection which is our life and salvation. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 57: "Be Merciful Unto Me, O Lord"**

The prayer for mercy is the basic Christian prayer. There are two ingredients. First, we recognize that we are in need, that we are in trouble, that we need help. Second, we know that the Lord is good and kind, and He wants to help us. So we pray, "Lord, help! Lord, save! Lord, deliver! Lord, forgive! Lord, have mercy!" And the Lord hears this prayer and answers it. Most especially, He sent His Son Jesus to help and save and forgive and rescue us. Jesus is the mercy of God in the flesh, and He is the answer to our prayers. We might be in trouble, but we are also upheld with His mercy and strength. *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 5:6-8: "You are a New Lump"**

When the Lord was rescuing His people from Egypt they didn't have time to let the bread rise. They had to eat the Passover Lamb with unleavened bread if they wanted to escape their slave-master Pharaoh. Leaven, in the preaching of the New Testament, becomes a picture of false doctrine and unholy living. Paul, then, encourages the Corinthians and us to feast on Christ with unleavened bread, that is, to come to the Lord's Supper and rejoice in the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Casting away malice, we rejoice in Christ in sincerity and truth. *Christ our Passover, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may rejoice in the gifts of Your cross and grave. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 52:13-15: "Two Astonishing Things"**

This text puts two astonishing things before us: the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus. First, He is humiliated. His face is marred more than any man. He is beaten, His beard is pulled out, He is crowned with thorns, all for us. But there is a second astonishing thing. Even after His humiliation and death, He will "sprinkle many nations" (Isaiah 52:15). He will live, and He will serve. We might expect that the Messiah, if He were to survive the ordeal of His suffering, would come to destroy the people. But He does not. He lives to bless. He is raised to serve. This is the second and great astonishment. God be praised! *We praise You, O Lord, that You have not risen for vengeance, but for our justification and peace. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 28:1-8: "The Angel on the Rock"**

It is a strange and wonderful detail that the angel sits on the door of the tomb (see Matthew 28:2). Death has been defeated, the tomb has been emptied, the condemnation of sinners has been undone. Jesus has knocked the fear out of death, and the angel preaches this good news when he rolls away the stone and "sits on it." Your death, dear friend, is nothing to be afraid of. Your grave is nothing to worry about. Your sin should not trouble you. Christ is crucified. Christ is buried. Christ is risen, all for you. Rejoice, then, that the angel sits on the stone, that you go to death unafraid, and that Jesus waits for you, to bring you to eternal life, and through death to the resurrection of all flesh. *O Lord, save us from the fear of death by the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 1:3-12: "Begotten by the Resurrection"**

Peter has wonderful comfort for us. He says that we are begotten, born, by the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is our birthday! The new life of Christ is our life, our hope, our confidence, our joy and peace. Jesus is the first-fruits of the resurrection. You are the second-fruits, the fruits to follow. You might be grieved with various trials, but even these serve to shore-up our faith and hope in the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body. God be praised that we have a "living hope" because we have a living Savior: Jesus Christ. *O Lord we give You thanks for begetting us to a living hope through the resurrection of Your Son Jesus. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 114: "The Seas and the Grave Shrink Back"**

Psalms 114 is a beautiful picture of the Exodus. The LORD leads the people out of Egypt, and as He marches before them the sea sees, and runs away, and the people pass through the sea on dry ground. The mountains see the LORD, and they run away, and make a straight path for the LORD's people. Something wonderful like this happens in the resurrection of Jesus. Death sees Him, and runs away. The grave takes one look, and cracks open. Sin looks at Jesus, and turns tail and runs. The LORD Jesus goes before us to sin and through the grave, and He makes for us a straight path to the resurrection and eternal life. *O Lord, be the fear of our enemies, the Router of our death, the Plunderer of our graves, and the Champion over our sin. Amen.*

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