PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  1 Peter 2:2, Psalm 81:1, 7, 10, 16

As newborn babes, Alleluia,* desire the pure milk of the Word. Alleluia. Alleluia.*
Sing aloud to God our strength:* make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.
You called in trouble, and I delivered you:* I answered you in the secret place of thunders.
I am the Lord your God,* who brought you out of the land of Egypt:
open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*
With honey from the rock I would have satisfied you.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 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.

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.
THREE OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith

The resurrection of Jesus is the Christian’s great hope. But even as sin has been forgiven and death destroyed, we have this victory now by faith. In the world Christians still struggle. The flesh and devil tempt toward sin. We suffer the pangs of death. Thanks be to God that through his Word He daily and richly forgives us. He strengthens and keeps us in the true faith. He grants us hope that on the last day we too will bodily rise, just as Christ is risen. Our faith is returning to the death and resurrection of Jesus through the means God establishes. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31 Peace-giving Jesus

We’re tempted to talk more about Thomas than Jesus when reflecting on this Scripture. We give Thomas a nickname that Scripture does not. “Doubting.” We say more than we mean to. Thomas’ doubt has been forgiven. It doesn’t seem fair to bind him to his forgiven sins. Our religion isn’t about binding people to their sins forever. It’s about freeing sinners from their guilt as Jesus commands. It’s about Jesus speaking words of comfort to Thomas. Jesus says, “Peace be with you.” Jesus didn’t come to guilt trip Thomas, but to deliver the peace Thomas desperately needed. Your Christian faith is not found defined by your sin, but your Lord. O LORD, grant us Your comfort and dispel our doubt and fear through the peace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 Looking Forward to Past Tense

The psalms that look forward to Jesus are written in past tense. In God’s eyes his promises as good as done. God has set his heart on mercy. It’s as if He’s already given, redeemed, helped, and saved. He has caused these wondrous works to be remembered among us today. He reminds us of his faithfulness through his redemptive acts in our history. Praise God! The beginning of wisdom is to recognize God’s fearsome wrath against sin. The end of wisdom is discovering God’s mercy through his promises. As we study the Scriptures, we delight, not just in the Lord’s past works, but in the recognition He continues to save. O LORD, remind us of Your mercies, that we would find hope in our darkest of days. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:4-10 These Three Agree

The Spirit, the water, the blood: God’s Word and Sacraments go together. Faith clings to God where He has promised to be found. Christ overcomes the world, and faith clings to Christ through the gifts of the Spirit. Even faith is a gift of the same Spirit who makes water more than plain water and the Sacrament more than just eating and drinking. The Word applied to water makes baptism. The words applied to bread and wine promise Jesus’ body and blood in communion. The Word applied to you through these means makes you a victor over the world in the Son of God. O LORD, grant to us Your saving Word in all the ways You would have us receive it, that we would believe and find salvation in You. Amen.


I focus on what the seventy-two lacked. It bothers me because I see the wolves and want more protection and provisions. So I’d want to take extra, despite what Jesus says. This fear corrupts. It has stopped being about getting others help and turned into making sure we survive. Just like the seventy-two, all we can see is what we don’t have. Not enough people, money, and programs. We paint a picture of a church almost extinct, complain about it, then wonder why others join. Christ sent the seventy-two to scare sinners like us. They bring the kingdom of God to us. It’s not measured in stuff, money, or people, but in God’s promise. O LORD, You have promised to preach through Your pastors and thereby deliver Your kingdom. Point us to where You have promised to be.