

“He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith”



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

As newborn babes, Alle- | luia,\*  
 desire the pure milk of the Word. Alleluia. Alle- | luia.  
 Sing aloud to | God our strength;\*  
 make a joyful shout to the God of | Jacob.  
 You called in trouble, and I de- | livered you;\*  
 I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.  
 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 sa- | tisfied you.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 20:26

“Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, as You have brought us to celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection, cause us by Your grace to bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; 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  
**I Am Content! My Jesus Liveth Still**

TLH 196, LSB 468  
 Johann J. Möller



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| <p>1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,<br/>             In whom my heart is pleased.<br/>             He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,<br/>             God's wrath He hath appeased.<br/>             Since He in death could perish never,<br/>             I also shall not die forever.<br/>             I am content! I am content!</p> <p>2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head;<br/>             His member I will be.<br/>             He bowed His head when on the cross<br/>             He died</p> | <p>With cries of agony.<br/>             Now death is brought into subjection<br/>             For me, too, by His resurrection.<br/>             I am content! I am content!</p> <p>5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee<br/>             And wake me from the dead<br/>             That I may rise forevermore to be<br/>             With Thee, my living Head.<br/>             The fetters of my body sever,<br/>             Then shall my soul rejoice forever.<br/>             I am content! I am content!</p> |
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**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 19-25, 2020

### THEME 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!

SUN

### 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.*

MON

### 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.*

TUE

### 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.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27 My Redeemer Lives

Jesus lives and that means Job will live too. The Redeemer given into death has conquered death. He leads us through the grave and out again with Him. Job's skin will be destroyed, yet he will rise in his flesh and his eyes will see God. We believe in the resurrection of the body. This is better than vague and immaterial ideas about 'heaven.' Jesus preaches a resurrection faith. You will, in your flesh, rise from the grave and live. Take heart, even as the wages of sin is death, the free gift of God is life everlasting in Christ Jesus our Lord, and our Redeemer. *O LORD, through the resurrection of Your Son, grant us to rise in our bodies and rejoice in You. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19 Salvation from the Savior

Do we tell other people about Jesus to make ourselves godly in His sight? Even works of the first table of the Law aren't sufficient to justify us. That's why Jesus doesn't want to relate to Peter based on his heart or his works. He says "When you are old, another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." You will be clothed in white robes and led through the grave and back out again. You are united to Christ by baptism into death and resurrection. The lambs need fed, but our salvation doesn't come from our works or our heart, but from our Savior. *O LORD, fix our eyes on Jesus' death and resurrection as the source of our justification, that we would be free from the curse of the Law to serve our neighbor. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3 Ransomed

Christians do good works. Sin has consequences, even among believers. God will judge according to each one's deeds. Yes we confess these truths, but know something first. You were ransomed by the blood of Jesus. Without the Gospel, it is impossible to use the Law safely. Your sins were put on Jesus. In baptism, you have been born again, so live from a pure heart. Not a heart you keep pure by your obedience, but a heart made pure by God by faith. *O LORD, grant us comfort in our baptism to stand before you unafraid of Your law, and ever hoping in Your gospel. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 Waste Not, Want Not

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 nobody joins. Christ sent the seventy-two to scared 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*

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