

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 20:22-23

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

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



1. I am content! My Jesus liveth still,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He hath fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God's wrath He hath appeased.
Since He in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!

2. I am content! My Jesus is my Head;
His member I will be.
He bowed His head when on the cross
He died

With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me, too, by His resurrection.
I am content! I am content!

5. I am content! Lord, draw me unto Thee
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With Thee, my living Head.
The fetters of my body sever,
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!



"He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith"

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 23-29, 2017

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

Last week, the Church marked the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave. This week, the Church turns her attention to the proclamation of Christ's victory over death, which brings the forgiveness of sins (John 20), brings the message of redemption to the ends of the earth (Psalm 111), gives comfort in the Resurrection of the body (Job 19), gives spiritual food to God's people (John 21 and I Peter), and gives joy in the midst of suffering (Psalm 4). Additionally, this week, the Church remembers St. Mark, whose Gospel is a full-throated proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection (Mark 16).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31: Jesus Sends Pastors to Preach

This week, we see that special authority Christ has given the Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant. Because Christ has commanded His Church on earth to act on His behalf, we can be certain that, when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by excluding the openly unrepentant from the Christian congregation and absolving those who repent and want to live a God-pleasing life, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself. *O Lord, teach me to mourn my sins and desire to live according to Your will. Absolve my guilt and shame that I may receive eternal life through the peace made by Your Son's wounded hands. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111: He causes His works to be remembered

The Psalmist declares that it is God who causes His wondrous works to be remembered (v. 4). This happens to us through the preaching of the Prophets in the Old Testament and the Apostles in the New. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's mighty deeds are passed down from generation to generation. In order for us to receive this testimony rightly, Jesus established the pastoral office (see John 20:19-31) to send that message of salvation from Jerusalem to His people throughout the world (v. 9). *O Lord, Your mighty works of salvation are made known through the preaching of Your Word. Grant faith to those who hear Your Word, that they may receive the benefits of Your salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:14-20: St. Mark, Evangelist

St. Mark's day teaches about the mission of the Church. After the resurrection and before His ascension into heaven on the 40th day, Jesus commanded His disciples to carry the message of His resurrection to the ends of the earth. This is to be done in a very specific way: through baptism and the preaching of the Gospel (see also Mt. 28:19-20). Here we see how God delivers salvation to His people through the office He Himself gives, because it is Christ Himself who is working through these means (v. 20). *Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27: I know that My Redeemer lives

The words of Job have brought comfort to God's people from millennia. The hope of the resurrection of the body is not a novel concept in the New Testament, but is a doctrine held by God's people of every time and place. Our hope is not in a spiritual heaven, but in a real, flesh and blood body in the new creation into eternity. God wants us to be certain of this, so that the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh would not rob us of this comfort. In order to strengthen and keep us in this faith, God sends pastors to proclaim this unchanging message of the Gospel to us each week in the Divine Service. *O Lord, grant us to fear and love You, that we would not despise preaching and Your Word, but would hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19: Feed My Sheep

Jesus restored Peter to his office in accordance with the promise He made before His suffering and death. In this text, we also see Christ giving Peter a Divine directive to feed His flock. This reminds us of the primary reason for which God sends pastors into His Church. They are to feed and tend God's flock as under shepherds of the Good Shepherd—Jesus Christ. This feeding is found in the Word and Sacraments that Jesus gives as the instruments to care for His flock. Even as the Christian walks through the valley of the shadow of death, the pastor is there as Christ's man to help him follow Christ through death into life. *O Lord, keep my pastor faithful to Your Holy Word, that I made be brought to good pasture. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3: Like Newborn Infants

This Sunday's Latin name, *Quasimodogeniti*, comes from the antiphon for the introit, found in this epistle reading. Here, we see the pastoral heart of St. Peter, who is feeding His flock and the Church of all time, through the preaching recorded in this Epistle. Part of true Apostolic preaching is exhortation to holy living. This kind of preaching certainly accuses us in our sin, but it is also preaching that we, who have been born anew through the water and the Word in Baptism, can delight in. God's instruction is food to the Christian, and we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. *O Lord, teach me to delight in your statutes and not to forget Your Word. Amen. (Ps. 119:16)*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4: In Peace I Will Both Lie Down and Sleep

God's Word brings us such comfort that even as we face death, we may lie down and sleep in peace. This means that going to the Divine Service to hear from the pastor God sent us that our sins are forgiven and receive from his hand the body and blood of Christ that have reconciled us to God is great practice for the day when we shall depart this life. Hearing these promises and receiving these gifts week in and week out instills in us a confident faith that cannot be shaken in times of turmoil or distress. Tomorrow, go to Christ, our true Sabbath rest, and hear His Word of peace from your pastor's mouth! *O Lord, through the power of Your Word, grant us such faith to trust in Your salvation, even in the midst of death. Amen.*

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