

“He is Risen to Overcome Death”



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,*
 how excellent is Your name in | all the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 28:5-6**
 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

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!

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Overcome Death

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! It was a strange and dreadful fight: when life and death contended. The victory remained with Life! The reign of Death was ended. Holy Scripture plainly says: "Death is swallowed up by death!" Death's sting is lost forever. Why? Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, for our offences given. But, now, at God's right hand He stands, to give us life from heaven. Therefore, let us joyful be, and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of Alleluia! *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8 Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Death never had a chance. Jesus is life and light, Who spends these few nights in the grave so that you can spend eternity in life, rejoicing to see His face. The King of Righteousness is crucified to redeem the children of wrath. The Prince of Life is buried to destroy death and bring life and immortality to us bound to death. Christ is risen, the first fruits of the immortal and eternal life to come. Let us rejoice this Easter Day, the suffering of Christ is ended, He is triumphant, and His eternal joy is on the way to us. *O Lord Jesus Christ, You are glorified in Your resurrection from the grave. Bring us also through the valley of death to stand before You in life never-ending. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2 Thou Art My Son

Luther's Easter hymn, "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" echoes the theology of Psalm 2, wherein God the Father exalts His Son above the sons of this earth. "No son of man could conquer death, Such ruin sin had wrought us" (LSB 458.2). We are the sons of Adam, born in sin and inclined to rebel against God (Ps. 2:1-3). But "Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down, His people to deliver" (LSB 458.3). The Father's only-begotten Son has conquered death by His own death and risen from the dead to receive the nations--yes, even you and me--as His inheritance, world without end (Ps 2:7-9). *Mighty Victor, reign forever, Wear the crown so dearly won; Never shall Thy people, never, Cease to sing what Thou hast done. (TLH 209.4) Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Let Us Celebrate

Our Passover Lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. His sacrifice, unlike every Passover sacrifice before Him, takes away the sins of the world. There has been a sea-change here. There remains then no anticipatory feast – the Passover – but a feast of completion in the true Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Communion. Here is something entirely different, for Christ fills and fulfills the Old Covenant with Himself, expands it and widens to embrace the world in His sacrifice. So now we no longer eat the Passover, but the Holy Communion. Let us celebrate the festival. *Lord Jesus, thank You for this blessed gift of Your resurrection. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52: 13-15 Astonished at Jesus

Our text gives us two reasons for being astonished at Jesus. First, He was so badly abused and beaten that He was unrecognizable. He was truly the Man of sorrows, afflicted beyond measure. But, second, He is high and lifted up and greatly exalted. He was dead, but is alive. He was ripped apart, but now He stands in glory. He was forsaken, but now He sits at the Father's right hand. He was humbled, even to the point of death on the cross, but now He is highly exalted and given the name above all names. We are astonished at Jesus, at His suffering, at His victorious resurrection and ascension, at His humiliation turned to glory, and that all of this is for us and our salvation. *O Lord, we are astonished at all that Your love has done for us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-8 Like Dead Men

When the angel appeared at the open tomb the guards trembled and became like dead men. See the irony. The only ones who are acting as if they are dead are men who are alive. He who should be dead is living. The living Christ lives so that He can make us to be living people. Just as He called out to Lazarus and raised him from the dead, He calls out to you and brings you life. He pulls you out of your grave and gives you the greatest gift so that you may no longer be like a dead man. Now you are like the Living Man: Jesus Christ. *Dear Jesus, thank You for the life You have given to me. 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: Psalm 113 The Raiser of the Poor

Jesus' followers were astonished that Jesus is raised from the dead (and we are too), but this is what the Lord does. "He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes." Jesus is raised because God is the Lifter of the needy, the Raiser of the poor, the Savior of the dead, the Redeemer of sinners. When Jesus commended Himself in the hands of the Father, He commended Himself into the hands that rescue, and He will also rescue us. His salvation has come, and His gift of the resurrection is on the way. *Praise the Lord. O Lord, You are blessed from this time forth, and even forever more. Amen.*