

“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 Psalm 4:8
 “In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

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,
 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!</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>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!</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.

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

Peace and the Resurrection. These things go together. Jesus has died, and through that death we are declared righteous. We have the peace of God which surpasses not only our understanding, but our sins, the world, the devil, and even death itself. We are clothed with peace through Baptism. We have peace proclaimed into our ears through the Absolution and God's Word. We are brought into peace through the preaching of the Gospel. We have God's peace placed upon our lips. And on the last day, we shall be raised into the peace of the blessed resurrection for all eternity.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31 – Peace Which Surpasses Our Sins

"Peace be with you." That's the core of the reality which we have through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Peace. Because we have inherited the sin of Adam, we are enemies of God. We, in our sin, are at war with Him. But because Christ has come and has suffered the punishment of our sins and has given to us His righteousness, we are declared to be, not the enemies of God, but His friends. We are set at peace. That peace comes particularly to us through these words: "I forgive you." In those blessed words we are forgiven and declared to be at peace with God, through Jesus's death and resurrection. *Lord, thank You for setting me at peace with You through the declaration that in You my sins are forgiven. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 – A House of Peace

As the disciples are sent out into the towns to proclaim God's word, there is a particular word they are to declare: "Peace". This is a foreshadowing of what will be proclaimed by Jesus to the disciples when He breathes on them and says, "Peace be with you." Those who hear and keep God's word are those who are at peace with God. These are those to whom the Kingdom of God has come near, through the word. This is the wonderful blessing of the scriptures, that wherever they are preached, there is Jesus and His kingdom, forgiving sins, destroying the devil, and bringing saints into eternity. *Lord, keep me steadfast in Your word and help me to see Your kingdom and peace. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:4-10 – Washed in Victory

When we look around at the world, we are tempted to be afraid. The world, after all, often looks big and scary and it likes to act like it has all authority. But St. John reminds us that all of us who are born of God, all of us who are the Lord's Baptized, have already overcome the world. We have been born of water and the spirit. We have Christ's atoning blood placed into our mouths. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit. And with these we need not fear the world, nor sin, death, or devil, because they have all already been conquered by Jesus. He belongs to us and we belong to Him and so what can these things do to us? As Jesus has said: "Fear not, I have overcome the world." *Lord, thank You for overcoming the world and giving me that same victory in You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27 – Resurrected Joy

As Job reflects on all his enemies and the danger surrounding him, we might expect that he finally just falls into despair: "O woe is me!" Instead, in the midst of suffering and persecution and trial and anguish, he gives to us this beautiful confession, (which is ours also): "I know that my redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God." This is the blessed reality that the Lord, because He has redeemed us in Christ, will raise us on the last day, fully victorious and freed from all sin, sorrow, and anguish. Therefore, we can endure whatever we face now, knowing it is but for a moment. *Lord, keep my eyes always on Your promise of the Resurrection. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19 – Into the Grave and Back Out

Peter had previously denied Jesus three times. Now he will confess three times that He loves Jesus. But Jesus doesn't leave it there. He tells Peter what that love will look like. First, he is to feed and tend the Lord's flock. This is the pastoral office, caring for those entrusted to them. Second, he will suffer as Jesus did, being led away to his own crucifixion. This is the cost of discipleship we must all bear, as Jesus has promised, "If the world hates you, know that it hated me first." And third, he must follow Jesus. And this is for us all. We must follow where Jesus leads. But that is a great joy, for it leads us to eternity. Jesus dies, and so we follow Him into the Grave. Jesus is raised, and so we follow Him there also. *Lord, grant that I follow You faithfully. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3 – An Immortal Faith from an Imperishable Seed

God's word is imperishable. The world may fight against it. The devil may try and pervert it. Our old Adam may seek to ignore it. But God's word endures, forever. It is constantly preaching against the world, so that we can be transferred from the kingdom of darkness to light. It is constantly preaching against the devil, so that he is crushed and driven from our conscience. And it is constantly preaching against our old Adam, so that he is drowned and the new man, Christ, is raised. This all having been accomplished by an imperishable and immortal word will then on the last day give us those qualities as well. We will be raised imperishable and immortal, having been born of that same seed. *Lord, keep my faith strong by Your word. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 – Sleeping in Heavenly Peace

In the midst of our distress, especially the distress which comes in light of death, what can bring any hope or joy? The promise that just as Christ was raised from the dead, so too will we. We can lay our heads down in sleep, the beautiful picture of the scriptures for our death in Christ, knowing with full confidence that we will be awakened by Him on the last day. "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." That is our constant hope and joy in the midst of all trial. *Death's poison cannot harm me now, Thy blood new life bestoweth; My shadow from the heat art Thou, When noontide's sunlight gloweth. When I'm by inward grief oppress'd, On Thee my weary soul shall rest, As sick men on their pillows. Amen.*

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