



“He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy”

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.\*  
Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.  
Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!\*”  
Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-  
| selves to You.  
Come and see the | works of God;\*  
He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.  
Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!\*  
And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,  
He keeps our soul among the | living,\*  
And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 75:1

“We give thanks to you, O God: we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.”

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

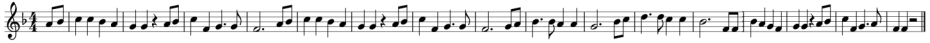
**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; 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  
**Like the Golden Sun Ascending**

TLH 207, LSB 548  
Thomas Kingo



- 1. Like the golden sun ascending,  
Breaking through the gloom of night,  
On the earth his glory spending  
So that darkness takes to flight,  
Thus my Jesus from the grave  
And Death's dismal, dreadful cave  
Rose triumphant Easter morning  
At the early purple dawning.
- 2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!  
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!  
Death hath now no power o'er us,  
Thou hast conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because Thou didst arise  
And hast opened Paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.
- 3. Thou hast died for my transgression,  
All my sins on Thee were laid;  
Thou hast won for me salvation,  
On the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise  
And shall meet Thee in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory;  
I shall lift my head in glory.
- 4. For the joy Thy advent gave me,  
For Thy holy, precious Word;  
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,  
For Thy blest Communion board;  
For Thy death, the bitter scorn,  
For Thy resurrection morn,  
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,  
And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

**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 25-May 1, 2021

## THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy

The Lord promises to preserve us in the midst of all things in this life. He promises to set us at peace, not with the kingdom of this world, but with His kingdom. And in order to accomplish that He has given us His name, He has called us out of darkness to light, He has given us unending mercies, He has gone into the grave and come back out, has promised to hear and answer our every petition, and has given us the promise of the eternal victory over the grave. We therefore rightly praise Him throughout our lives, as we live in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding and comes new every day.

SUN

## SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 – A Kingdom of Peace

“Peace be to this house...the kingdom of god has come near to you.” The Lord sends out the disciples to proclaim a very specific message: Peace and the Kingdom. The two are not disconnected from one another. The peace of God, that we are set aright with the father because our Lord Jesus has died and risen for our sake, that peace is also where we find the Lord’s kingdom. There’s the temptation to try and find the kingdom of God in all sorts of external things in this life, but Jesus would have us remember that it’s found wherever His word is proclaimed and His gifts are given, and in those things, the Lord bestows upon us His peace and sets us as heirs in His kingdom. *Lord, thank You for declaring Your peace to me through Your church. Amen.*

MON

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75 – Marked by the Name of God

“O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.” This is the great joy of the Christian, that we worship a God who is not far off from us, or who forbids us to speak His name. Rather He gives us His name to use and to call upon in every trouble, to use in prayer, praise, and thanks. He gives His name to rejoice in. And more than that, He gives us His name to be called by and to be marked with. In our baptism He has placed that name upon us. In the benediction He places His name on us again. Over and over we live and move and have our being as those who are marked with the name of Christ: CHRISTians. And so we rejoice and give thanks, for God’s name is near, in our lips, and upon our heads. *Lord, thank you for marking me with Your name. Amen.*

TUE

## SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20 – Free to Serve

“Live as people who are free, not as a cover up for evil, but living as servants of God.” This is one of the great mysteries of the faith, that we are set free by God from bondage to sin, and death, and the devil, but not so that we can be free to live however we wish, but so that we can be bound to the Lord’s will for our lives. We are taken from one servanthood to another. However, we are indeed free to serve God by living as His holy people, because we’re not enslaved any longer to the temporal consequences of this life, rather, we know we already have an eternal inheritance awaiting us, and so we are freed to live in this life faithfully, according to God’s Will. *Lord, help me always to live, act, and speak, in accord with your will. Amen.*

WED

## SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26 – A Love Without End

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” 3 times here Jerimiah uses unconditional terms: “Never, Never, Every”. So is the Lord’s work to us. He never grows tired of loving us. He never grows weary of bringing us mercy. And so, they come to us every day, the bad days, the good days, and the ho-hum days. And in that they are new to us. For every day we come before the Lord with new sins, more sins, sins against our neighbor and sins against our Lord. And yet, every day, we the Lord looks upon us and smiles because Christ’s blood has already made the payment for those sins. Thus He loves, and is merciful, every day. *Lord, thank You for Your unending mercies toward me. Amen.*

THU

## SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11 – Eternal Neighbors

“In my House are many rooms.” It seems sometimes we lose sight of the great beauty that is here. We rejoice that Jesus is promising that He is going to prepare at the cross a place for us in the eternal resurrection. But the promise here is that this work is not just for a couple people, but for many. There is a great multitude, and unnumberable multitude, which will be brought into the resurrection of all flesh, and the Lord has prepared rooms for them all. And that means that in the resurrection, as now, we will have many neighbors with which we may rejoice together in the Lamb who was slain and who now wipes away every tear from our faces. *Lord, thank you for preparing eternity for me and all believers. Amen.*

FRI

## SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16 – A Merciful Ear

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses.” Jesus knows our every need, our every issue, our every pain and sorrow, and He knows them in-fact, better than we do. He has not only experienced them Himself as He lived in this life as a man of sorrows, rejected by men and from whom men hide their faces, but He has also experienced for our sake the very forsakenness of the Father. And because of this, when you call upon the Lord in your trouble and sorrows as well as in your joys, He is able to bring to you the mercy you need in that time and in that place. So we can indeed draw near the throne of grace with confidence, knowing He helps in every time of need. *Lord, thank you for hearing my prayers. Amen.*

SAT

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 – Trust not in Princes

“Put not your trust in princes...” There’s the temptation to rely on rulers and authorities to solve all our problems since God has given us all authorities for our good. But because every human authority is still mortal, they cannot help with what matters most: our salvation and our being rescued from the grave. But the God of Jacob, Christ, has purchased our salvation by His lifegiving cross, and has conquered death by rising on the third day. Therefore our trust remains always in him. *Trust not in princes, they are but mortal, earthbound they are and soon decay. Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal, when the dark foe engulfs its prey. Since mortals can no help afford, place all your trust in Christ our Lord, Alleluia! Amen.*

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