

“The Lord’s Call to Faith in His Grace”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 44:23, 25-26, 1-3, 7-8**

Awake! Why do You | sleep, O Lord?*

Arise! Do not cast us off for- | ever.

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;*

arise for our help and re- | deem us.

We have heard with our | ears, O God,*

our fathers have told us the deeds You did in | days of old:

You drove out the nations | with Your hand,*

but you planted our fathers because you | favored them.

You have saved us from our | enemies,*

and have put to shame those who | hated us.

In God we boast | all day long,*

and praise Your name for- | ever.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Timothy 3:16**

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, because You know that we dare not put our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through 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
May God Bestow on Us His Grace

TLH 500, LSB 823
Martin Luther



1. May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.

2. Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of every nation,
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.

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: **The Lord's Call to Faith in His Grace**

The Kingdom of God is like a Sower in the Field. The seed He scatters is the Word, and the life of the world and the hope of sinners is that Word. The Word produces life, faith, and forgiveness. It brings light into the darkness of this world. It overthrows demonic strongholds. It rains mercy on sinners, and all on its own. We are weak, troubled, wrath-deserving law-breakers, but the small and beleaguered Holy Scriptures come to deliver and set us free and place us on the way to eternal life. This week's Scripture passages are filled with the hidden strength of the life-giving Word of God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 8:4-15: Dirt, and the Seed at War**

The seed is the Word, and the Word is under attack. The devil pecks after the Word to snatch it from our ears and heart. The world beats down the Word with affliction and persecution. The sinful flesh chokes and strangles the Word with its desires and greed. But the Word of the Lord endures forever. His Word overcomes the devil, the world, the flesh, and bears the fruit of faith: everlasting life. We are the dirt in this parable, gladly so, blessedly so, for "Blessed are all those who hear the Word of God and keep it." *Lord Jesus, overcome with Your Word every assault on Your Word and people, and grant that Your Word would create in us the harvest of eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 24: Who Climbs the Holy Hill**

Who climbs the holy hill? Who enters the holy city? For whom are the everlasting gates opened? Only for the Holy One, the King of Glory, the Lord of Hosts. Psalm 24 is a hymn of the Ascension, the entrance of our Lord Jesus into the heavenly Holy of Holies to sit at the Father's right hand. Jesus, and Jesus alone, has clean hands, a pure heart, holy soul and lips and life, but Jesus gives that holiness to you. He applies His perfection to your name, His forgiveness of sins, so that He would not climb that holy hill and enter that holy place alone. He brings you with Him. We seek His face, that is, by faith we rejoice in His righteousness given, and by love we pursue His righteousness commanded. *Oh King of Glory, bring us into Your holiness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9: Paul Boasting in Weakness**

Paul belongs to Jesus; he is His man. Paul's life, his reputation, his comfort, his calendar, his imagination, his strength and wisdom, they all belong to Jesus. If Jesus wanted Paul floating on the ocean, whipped and stoned, thrown in prison, thrown out of the window in a basket, or whatever, there he was, suffering all in Jesus' name. Even when Paul prays for relief, the Lord blesses him with this strange and comforting wisdom, "My grace is sufficient. My strength is made perfect in weakness." God be praised for the strength of God perfected in our weakness. *Lord Jesus, give me this comfort that Your strength is perfect in my weakness. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 55:10-13, Like the Seed, Like the Rain**

Jesus talks about the seed of the Word. Isaiah talks about the rain of the Word. Both are needed for growth, for life. Like rain, the Word of God, comes from heaven, and it brings forth life, joy, peace, clapping and singing, delight in the unfolding of God's gracious mind and merciful thoughts. How are His thoughts not our thoughts? His are thoughts of peace. His is a cross-and-empty-tomb-shaped imagination of grace, forgiveness, and underserved eternal life. This is the produce of the Word. God be praised! *O Lord, cause Your Word to bear the fruit of eternal life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 4:26-32: Two More Seed Parables**

Only Mark gives us this parable of the "Automatic" Seed. That's the Greek word in verse 28, *automatically* the earth yields the crop. The farmer is sleeping, and the seed is growing. The power is in the Word. The second parable is of the Mustard Seed, the smallest seed that shoots out large branches. The Word of God seems to us to be small, insignificant, and weak, but it is the power of God unto salvation for all who would believe. These are *Sola Scriptura* parables. The Scripture alone brings the kingdom of God's grace, forgives sin, and gives the sinner the joyous hope of the world to come. *O Lord, cause Your kingdom to come among us and expand by the preaching and hearing of Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **2 Timothy 3:10-4:5, Hearing the Breath of God**

The Scriptures are divinely inspired, God-breathed. The same Breath that spoke at the beginning, and a creation snapped into existence, He has spoken by the prophets and apostles to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. With all the different words in the world, all the different voices shouting at us, it is easy to get distracted. But in the Scriptures we hear the voice of Jesus, His breath, alive for the grave, teaching, rebuking, correcting, training, comforting, forgiving, blessing and keeping us in faith and love. *God grant us ears that are open to Your Word, and hearts that are bound to the Scriptures. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 25: God's Gracious Forgetting**

This Psalm is glorious and full of comfort. Let's focus on verses 6 and 7. David is concerned with the LORD's memory; three prayers: "Remember... remember not... remember..." The first prayer asks the LORD to remember His mercy and steadfast love. The second prayer asks the LORD to remember not his sins or transgressions. The third prayer asks the LORD to remember him according to His steadfast love. Amazing! Mercy is first in the mind of God. Grace is how God considers us. He does not think of us according to our sins, but according to the sacrifice of Christ. O wonderful forgetfulness! The LORD does *not* even remember our sin. *According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD. Amen.*

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