

“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 4:2a**
 “Preach the Word.”

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



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| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of February 7-13, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Faith in His Grace

The God of creation decides to sort out all things regarding salvation in the preaching of His Word. He does not grant Salvation *before* the Word. He does not grant Salvation *after* the Word. But *IN* and *THROUGH* the preaching of the Word. Jesus came as a Preacher. He cast the Word of God among Israel, calling His people to faith. Tragically, Israel rejected God's Christ—Jesus. They nailed Him to the cross with the help of Rome. But, God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating His identity and authority to Israel and all creation. Now we, happy fools, have been caught up into the saving work of God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:4-15 Word and Spirit

We often lose sight of the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Jesus. We want salvation to be a matter of human will power. We say things like, "Why didn't they know?" and, "How didn't they see?" or, "Who doesn't understand what Jesus is saying?" However, for Jesus, as He preaches in the Power of the Holy Spirit, salvation isn't a matter of human will power or understanding but the will and wisdom of God. God by His Spirit-filled Word calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies His Church on earth. You might lament this reality, but that is the wrong reaction. "Why me and not someone else?" Wrong. When God chooses you, that is good news. Not a burden. *God, thank You for choosing me in Jesus. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24 Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates!

God is the boss of everything. Nothing in creation changes Him. As the boss He has ordained that faith alone is what makes the heart of mankind righteous, beautiful, and pure. Out of the righteous heart pour forth good things. The righteous do not degrade their souls to falsity. The righteous do not activate their tongues in lies. Rather, the righteous seek the face of the God of Jacob where He has made Himself known. For David, that location was in Tabernacle: lambs, smoke, and Ark. For us God fully discloses Himself in Jesus. The ancient doors and gates of Jerusalem were waiting for the Christ of Israel. We have Him. *Heavenly Father, You are a good gift giver. Help me always to hold onto Jesus as a treasure from heaven. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 "My Grace is Sufficient"

God takes from His people. He takes from us. He makes us feel less, cut off from desires and objects of worship. By proclaiming the Law, He will even bring us to hell and cast us into manifest sin so that, by the Gospel, He might raise us out of hell and sin and death and give us heaven, forgiveness, and life. Just ask Jesus. Is God going to treat your life differently than Jesus? Are you exempt from the cross? Do you think you are greater than Jesus? Do you think you are greater than Paul? No. God shows no partiality. To Jew, to Gentile, He works the same. He gives Sorrow. He gives Joy. In all these, whatever the case, like Paul we remember God's greatest work: He gave us Jesus. *In Jesus I am strong, and in nothing else. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55:10-13 Preach the Gospel

We are wrapped up in debates of racial justice, police reform, education reform, political direction and economic framework. We are divided over masks. Masks. The Church is tossed about in discussions of "what is the most compassionate thing we can be doing right now?" The answer is clear and simple: Preach the Gospel. This was the answer from God to Isaiah for a people whose land, economy and religious institutions were in the process of being destroyed by foreign invaders. What is the most compassionate and beautiful thing we can do as Christians in this current dark mess? Preach the Gospel. *O God, give us ears to hear Your compassionate Word and generous hearts to aid its proclamation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:26-32 God's Kingdom

The beautiful promise of this passage is that sooner or later the Kingdom will grow up. In the mean-time, though, it might appear small and insignificant, weak and minor. As one of Jesus' disciples would say, "Nazareth? Can anything good come from Nazareth?" The Kingdom might look like a scraggly Jewish man hanging on a cross. "He saved others. Let Him save Himself!" Weak, small, naked, insignificant and dead. Then comes the resurrection. Our eyes are not any clearer than those of sinners back then. So, let us keep our eyes on Jesus. Let us pray for His Spirit. Let us hear and receive His bountiful Word. Let us rest. *Dearest Father, help us to rest and cherish all the work accomplished for us by Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 Preach the Word

"Preach the Word." What a good gift. How great is it that the Almighty God of Creation who sent His Son to preach in the power of His Holy Spirit now tasks mortal men to do the same? Now, from generation-to-generation, God creates and sustains His people by His Word. He has granted the Church the duty of this procreational enterprise. Preaching the Word is why we exist. God is at work in the Church making a people for Himself and keeping a people for Himself. It really is a beautiful thing. *Dearest Father, grant me humility to receive well the good gift of Your Word, and Your chosen servants who preach it. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 "Remember Your Mercy, O Lord"

The darkness will soon overtake us in this life. Our enemies will rise. Not only spiritual enemies, but physical enemies. Enemies who snap with the vicious bite of demons and devils. Not only does God give us relief and freedom from our external enemies, He also gives us relief and freedom from the internal enemies that plague us. Like David, we can often begin to believe God is digging up the sins of our past. We think that God has somehow forgotten how to be merciful. Like David, we must be reminded that even though God's countenance might turn from us, His heart never will for Christ's sake. From God comes our relief. He gives us a Word of Promise, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *When darkness comes, give me Christ. Amen.*

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