



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 6:1. Revelation 19:6; Psalm 100:1-5**

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and | lifted up,*
 And the train of His robe filled the | temple.
 And I heard the voice of a great multitude, | saying,*
 “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omni- | potent reigns!
 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, | all you lands!*
 Serve the Lord with | gladness;
 Know that the Lord, | He is God;*
 it is He who has made us, and not | we ourselves;
 enter into His gates with thanks- | giving,*
 and into His | courts with praise.
 For the Lord is good; His mercy is ever- | lasting,*
 and His truth endures to all gener- | ations.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 85:2**
 “You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord, we implore You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You now live and reign with the Father 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 **O Jesus, King of Glory** TLH 130
 Martin Behm



1. O Jesus, King of Glory,
 Both David's Lord and Son!
 Thy realm endures forever,
 In heaven is fixed Thy throne.
 Help that in earth's dominions,
 Throughout from pole to pole,
 Thy reign may spread salvation
 To each benighted soul.

6. And bid Thy Word within me
 Shine as the fairest star;
 Keep sin and all false doctrine
 Forever from me far.
 Help me confess Thee truly
 And with Thy Christendom
 Here own Thee King and Savior
 And in the world to come.

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: Jesus Manifested as the Messiah

The funny thing about Jesus' baptism is that it accomplishes the exact opposite as our baptisms. What sins did He need covered? Why did He need to be named a Son of God? None of it really makes sense, not even John the Baptist understood it all. All the gifts of baptism are already His. In our baptisms we graciously receive what He has. Wouldn't it be divinely foolish if in His baptism, He received everything that we had? Numbered with sinners. Scapegoat for Israel. Sacrificial Lamb for the world. Maybe, just maybe, this is why the Father is well pleased in His Son, because the Son has now become one with sinners, so sinners could be one with God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:13-17—To Fulfill All Righteousness

Jesus numbers Himself with sinners right there in the waters of His baptism. John didn't understand; sinners rarely do. He believes that he should be baptized by Jesus. He's right, but not yet. The sinner can't be numbered with the righteous until the Righteous is numbered with the sinner. So into the water with Jesus! Into the sinners' water. Immerse Yourself from head to toe, Jesus. Drown Yourself with the muck of sin and the slime of shame and the stink of death. Now come out of the water and be anointed by the Holy Spirit, for this is what it means to fulfill all righteousness; He carries our sins to the cross. Hear how the Father is pleased with the Son. The Father's pleasure and kindness is ours because Jesus suffered, in our place, the weight of God's anger against sin. In order to be the Savior of sinners, He had to be numbered with them. Jesus is our righteousness and redemption. *Gracious Lord Jesus, thank You for fulfilling all righteousness and numbering Yourself with sinners. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 3:1-17—Israel Baptized Again

Water does some amazing things. Not really water, but the Word of God in and with the water do some amazing things. Israel had seen this before (Red Sea) and would see something like this again (Elijah and the whirlwind), but here we get one of the greatest Old Testament foreshadowings of Baptism that there is. The ark of the covenant stands in the water and the people passover to the Promise Land. God is in the water and the miraculous happens. Promises are fulfilled, people are saved, Israel is given a new home. One can take comfort in this, even now, knowing that baptism in the New Testament didn't spring out of nowhere, but had been glimpsed in the days of the prophets. God saved the Israelites while being present within tangible things like water. Some things never change. *Saving Lord, save us like You saved Your people Israel. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 1:26-31—Boasting In...

The Christian only boasts in the Lord: His cross, His forgiveness, His way of making the sinner right before God. For that is the only thing that there is to boast in. Everything has been taken off the table. Works of the Law? Fulfilled by Christ and Christ alone. Sons and daughters of God? Only because the Son of God has made us to be heirs with Him. Poor miserable sinners have nothing to boast in except in the Lord Who has filled their empty sack to the brim with forgiveness. And even more, Christ uses the weak and foolish to shame the haughty. He uses the cross to shame the one who would see only his works. He uses the tax collector and the prostitute to shame the Pharisee. He uses His gracious mercy to shame the self-righteous sinner. *Christ our Lord, may our boast only be in You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42:1-7—The Servant Of The Lord

The servant of the Lord was supposed to be Israel; first the man and then the nation. In fact, it was supposed to be Abraham before him and Adam before him. But alas, no one was up to the task. No one had the ability to bring the justice to the nations. Instead, all they could bring was continued pain and sin and shame. Lest we believe that we are any better, know that we are not. And so the Lord sends His own servant from Himself to be the servant to end all servants and serve the bruised reed of Israel until eternity. That smoldering wick of a nation He will not let be snuffed out. Instead, He was, He has, He will continue to be a covenant for the people and a light for the nations. This servant, of course, is Christ, who the Father and Spirit bore witness to at His baptism. And He is One in Whom the Father delights, for your sake. *Great Servant, bring forth Your justice. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:4-12—Jesus Baptism: Take 2

Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus is intense and to the point. The heavens are torn open and the Spirit drives Him out into the wilderness. No movie of Jesus has ever portrayed it like this. But in this Gospel, Mark would have us know what it meant that Jesus had numbered Himself with sinners. It meant that He was going to receive the just due for the sins of the people. And so, in His baptism the Spirit lays His priestly hands upon the head of Jesus and places the sins of the world upon Him. Then out into the wilderness with Jesus. Just like the scapegoat of Leviticus 16. The Day of Atonement has come because the Son of God has been made known to be the Messiah, and the Messiah comes to be our sacrifice and scapegoat. *Gracious Jesus, at Your baptism You were numbered with sinners, take our sin away as the scapegoat which foretold your work. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:1-11—Dead To Sin

If you think that your baptism means permission to sin, then you have it all wrong. For baptism isn't a symbol of one's good intentions, but is a real union with the death and resurrection of Christ. Baptism means you died. Into the water with you! Into Christ's death and His grave as well. Don't come out Old Adam! You are dead. And then out of the grave New Adam comes, right alongside of Jesus. Now if you have been with Jesus to the grave and back in your baptism, then that means you are alive only to God. Death is as dead to you as you are to it. But when your Old Adam crawls out of the grave, then bring him back to your baptism once more (over and over again, as is necessary). For your baptism is not a one-time thing, it is a forever thing. A forever thing into the death and resurrection of Jesus. *Christ Jesus, may I be dead to sin and alive to God in You. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 85—Iniquity Forgiven, Sin Covered

Lord, Your wrath has been turned, as You forgave our iniquity and covered our sin. Restore us again, as we fall back into sin. Do not rekindle Your anger toward us, but remember Your steadfast love. Grant us Your salvation: A salvation never earned, but given freely time and again. Let me hear Your Words of peace spoken into my ears. May You turn me from sin and every foolish evil. Send Your salvation down upon us as You teach me to fear You and You alone. Even the beauty of Your creation shows forth Your steadfast love and continued faithfulness. Like the never-ending springs that flow from the ground or the torrential rains that fall from the heaven, so too is Your faithful steadfast love to us, Your servants, who deserve nothing, but plead for everything. Give Your people the righteous good that they need and preserve them in Your promise forever. Amen.

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