

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 97:6, 9, 1, 10-12**

The heavens declare His | righteousness,*
and all the peoples see His | glory.
For You, Lord, are most high above | all the earth:*
You are exalted far a- | bove all gods
The Lord reigns; let the | earth rejoice;*
let the multitude of | isles be glad!
He preserves the souls | of His saints;*
He delivers them out of the hand of the | wicked.
Light is sown for the | righteous,*
and gladness for the up- | right in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you | righteous,*
And give thanks at the remembrance of His | holy name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 33:18-19**

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love, that He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth Your hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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
O Christ, Our True and Only Light

TLH 512, LSB 839

Johann Heermann



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| <p>1. O Christ, our true and only Light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Thy voice
And in Thy fold with us rejoice.</p> <p>3. Oh, gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let every conscience sore oppress
In Thee find peace and heavenly rest.</p> | <p>5. Shine on the darkened and the cold,
Recall the wanderers to Thy fold,
Unite all those who walk apart,
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,</p> <p>6. So they with us may evermore
Such grace with wondering thanks adore
And endless praise to Thee be given
By all Thy Church in earth and heaven.</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 January 22-28, 2017

THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal

Christ is made manifest in mercy. Many people want God to make the world a *fair* place, but God's epiphanies are always in acts of unfair mercy. It is love that takes shape and form, revealing Jesus to be God. It is this love that bears the cross for sinners so that in faith we may see Him for what He is. When we read the Bible looking for fairness, rules, equality, or salvation by works, we always miss Jesus. When the Spirit moves us to look for Christ in the Word, we find hope that cannot be destroyed. The Scriptures show acts of mercy for sinners as promises of the same mercy given to you, a sinner that Jesus died for.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:1-13 Christ destroys sin and restores community

Being alone often sounds great until you actually are alone. The leper and the paralytic were both cut off from their lives, vocations, and loved ones. They were alone. Jesus, by the power of the same word that spoke creation into existence, draws what is unclean, broken, and sinful into Himself to bear it to the cross, where He is alone, cut off from God. You are not alone. Christ takes what is defiled in you and bears it to the cross. His Word is still spoken to you in Holy Absolution, that you might have the same restoration, community, and life. *Lord Jesus Christ, grant that by Your word, our sins would be forgiven, that we would have the same measure of Your peace. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 15: Jesus is the fulfillment of the law for you.

When we hold the law up to ourselves we find it to be true, but not frightful. It reveals and accuses our sins. David describes the ideal citizen, something we should strive to be in our vocations. He promises whoever lives up to the law's standards will never be moved. But we are sinners. Our feet slip due to sin. However, it is Christ who sets His cross upon the LORD's holy hill, fulfilling the law for us. He promises never to be moved from His seat of mercy. It is still good to strive to love your neighbor, but our help and our salvation is in the LORD. *Lord Jesus Christ, You alone walk blamelessly. Look upon us in everlasting compassion, that we may evermore dwell with You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:16-21b Jesus died for your neighbor.

Jesus died for your neighbor. Sometimes that's the best thing you can say about them. They're sinners too, but their sins were already paid for by the same Christ who forgives you. There are no more sins to punish according to Jesus and His death on the cross. We are not kind to sinners in order to anger them and secretly laugh. Instead, we treat each sinner as if Christ has actually made them as holy as He has made you in your baptism. If their sins can't uncrucify Christ, He has merited their peace as well. *Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see Your cross as the source of all forgiveness, both for ourselves, and for our neighbor, that we may ever find forgiveness for those who sin against us. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 Christ restores His creation in love.

Jesus isn't encouraging you to turn your back on your families who don't believe, or to imagine your salvation is dependent upon giving up property. He's talking about the real life damages caused by sin and unbelief. It divides families and homes. Jesus promises salvation for those hurt by sin. The first shall be last. The last, first. Christ, who is first, will give up everything to save you, that even if you have nothing left, He will restore what was damaged by sin completely. He bears the sin in your place, and promises you salvation. *Lord Jesus Christ, grant at last Your healing touch to those homes damaged by sin. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:5-10 I can't move the stupid tree.

I can't move the stupid tree. If I can't even do that, how can I believe my way up to heaven? Christ's promise to save isn't based on our worthiness, but His love. We are unworthy servants. He saves us anyway. I will not believe my way into heaven, but Christ died and was raised for me and won for me the kingdom. Faith clings to His promise to save the unworthy. God gave you your faith. It's enough, because your Father in heaven doesn't give you bad gifts. *Lord Jesus Christ, save Your unworthy servant, and send Your Holy Spirit, that trusting in You, we may find peace in You as our justification. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:1-16 Faith is not a checklist, but a hope that God saves sinners.

We didn't choose our religion by going through a checklist. I wasn't baptized because I wanted a faith that rejected evolution, homosexuality, and had a story about a giant boat. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith victims of murder are made alive. By faith drunks and adulterers are called saints. By faith sinners, all sinners, are forgiven and justified. The promise of our salvation greets us from afar, but our God sends His Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep. Faith is hope that Christ's death and resurrection unite us to our heavenly home, even from afar. *Lord Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit, that we would ever be kept in faith, and finally see You face to face. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33 God tends to get His way.

God tends to get His way. He wanted it to be light and it was. He spoke and it happened. When He speaks you to be righteous, He gets His way. When He promises you salvation, it is good. Although we don't see it yet, we hear God's promise and hope. He is our help and our shield. Whatever things look like, we know His victory. He has spoken it. It is finished. Our sins are forgiven. We are baptized and absolved. We eat His body and drink His blood. He speaks it is, and it is good. *Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You. Amen.*

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