

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 **Matthew 8:13**

“...Jesus said, ‘Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.’” Matthew 8:13

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 Herrmann



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.

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.

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,

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.



“God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal”

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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal

During Epiphany we learn why Christ has come in the flesh and this week the Scripture for the season records the promises and benefits of His holy appearing. Jesus reveals His divinity by healings, undoing the consequences of sin. In this Christian life, we may not experience a miracle to alleviate suffering. Through the power of Jesus' appearing in human flesh, His perfect suffering and death, and the sending of His Spirit, we have the blessed assurance of healing in body and soul for eternity. The Spirit's indwelling already manifests healing in the way we live: desiring to serve the will of God each of our days as we await His final appearing.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:1-13 "Healing for All Who Believe"

After the Sermon on the Mount the crowds crave more Jesus. They are desirous to receive the blessings of a loving God in the flesh. In faith and knowledge, the leper and the centurion ask Jesus to deliver on those good things of which He was just preaching—that God gives generously to those who call upon Him. To the bold pariah, faithful Jesus does the unthinkable: he touches the lesions that are the causes of his isolation, healing sin's consequences. The Gentile centurion, confessing his sinfulness and alien status, humbly asks for healing from afar. This musters a rebuke to Israel, but for the benefit of all the world, for it is revealed that the healing Word's incarnation is the paralyzed servant's and your salvation. *Lord Jesus, Your power is generous. Whenever and wherever You speak Your forgiving Word, let me hear, believe, and thereby be healed eternally in body and soul. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 15 "True Belief and the God-Pleasing Life"

King David asks about the connection between faith in God and faith lived-out in this world. His list of "do's" and "don'ts" in verses 2-5 aren't qualifiers for righteousness before God, but rather the sincere, Spirit-driven Christian reality: one who is no longer a slave to sin desires to lead a God-pleasing life. Yet the Christian is cautioned: to take comfort in the forgiveness of sins and intentionally disregard the Commandments makes one a liar. To make us holy and acceptable, Our Lord Jesus entered the shabby, torn tent of fallen creation (our bodies; the world) to redeem our bodies and souls from death. He has done so by His cross and by sending His Spirit, that we might dwell with Him in heavenly, eternal tents (v. 1) of true righteousness and purity, and live by His help, now and forever, according to His will. *O Lord Jesus, Let me ever perfectly dwell with Thee for You have promised to live in me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:16-21b "Wisdom, Good Works, and Persistence"

The world pounds into our ears that we're skillful experts in all things "me," and the flesh readily agrees. St. Paul smashes to bits: "*don't* think yourselves wise." The converted will daily lives in joyful humility, receiving correction and training by the Word. Having been made wise by the One who came to serve, Christians defer to and serve one another with patience. Members of the church subdue their own desires and seek the good of others, trusting in the Lord's saving work, His final authority, and ultimate victory in all things even in times of great difficulty and distress. God has overcome all evil by the wisdom of Christ's cross. *O Lord Jesus Christ, Grant Your Spirit that I may show how You have overcome all evil. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 "A Whole New Creation"

Whenever I hear "new world" Pocahontas and the Puritans arriving to pristine wilderness comes to mind. An unfortunate impression from watching too much Hollywood. When Jesus talks of the new world, His re-created or new creation, things will be different. Rather than us subduing and exercising dominion over this old creation, Jesus promises to make His disciples and all believers co-heirs with Him in everlasting perfection. Having given up the riches of this world, we are rewarded with the kingdom of God. Today the church remembers the conversion of St. Paul, who fiercely persecuted Jesus and His kingdom. Though Paul wasn't rich, he, along with you, by God's grace passes through the eye of the needle and receives the Son of Man's promise of eternal life—and awaits the riches of the new and everlasting creation on the Last Day. *Lord, Your blood and righteousness is my eternal prize. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:5-10 "My Faith or Jesus' Faith?"

The disciples are frightfully aware of their lack of abilities—the Lord Jesus has given quite rigorous and intimidating instructions for ministry. They undoubtedly sense they don't measure up and cry out "Increase our faith!" Our Lord's call to faithfulness proves that we are also woefully unequipped. But thanks be to God it's not the size of our faith—rather it all depends on Jesus' faithfulness. Will He do all the mercies God has promised? Will He bear His cross, setting aside His cloak of divine glory? Can He move the mulberry tree of our sin into the sea? Thanks be to God the answer is yes! He is faithful unto death and for the sake of His cross, His faithfulness saves you. We can pray for an increase, because we're praying for an increase in the promises of Jesus—which He gladly gives. *Lord, I believe, help my unbelief! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:1-16 "Faith's Hall of Fame"

Without faith we cannot please God. He may show mercy and withhold punishment, but faith in Christ is what makes us acceptable to Him. Enoch, Abraham and the others in the "Hall of Faith" were drawn near to God by His Word. They believed and were saved. Having heard of the power of Jesus to heal, the Spirit has drawn you near to and rewarded you with everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. For Christ's sake you are pleasing and acceptable. With this squeaky clean conscience and flesh purged from guilt, you go about your life in faith—joyfully undertaking all that works He has prepared for you: running errands, preparing tax returns, and loving your family. *Thou my Savior art! Draw me unto Thee! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33 – "God's Word Serves Him and You"

Lutherans aren't known for their ebullience, yet the Psalmist can barely contain praise and thanks overflowing from a soul declared righteous. Believing the steadfast love, graciousness, and omnipotence of the Lord, he is reconciled to Him. Why does the Christian breathlessly adore his Maker and Redeemer? The Lord is faithful to His Word (vv.1-5); He made, creates, and upholds all things with His Word (vv. 6-9), redeeming through the Word Incarnate; He destines the plans of nations and kings, working everything to His good and gracious purpose (vv.10, 11); He prospers and saves a people (His holy church) whose God is the Lord (vv.12-19); and this people patiently and happily drinks from their inexhaustible spring of joy (v.20-22). *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation! Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Rev. Joseph McCalley, who serves as Associate to the Regional Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, Missouri. Though he resides in Tiger Country, he remains a CU Buff and MLC Knight, and closely follows all things China.