

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 107:28-29, 1, 8, 24-25

They cry out to the Lord in their | trouble,*
and He brings them out of | their distresses.
He | calms the storm,*
so that its | waves are still.
Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for | He is good!*
For His mercy endures for- | ever.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His | goodness,*
and for His wonderful works to the child- | ren of men!
They see the works | of the Lord,*
and His wonders | in the deep.
For He commands the | stormy wind,*
which lifts up the waves | of the sea.

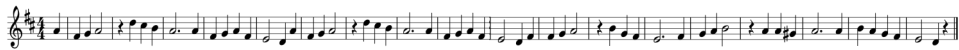
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 97:6
"The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Heavenly Father, as You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our fallen nature we cannot at any time stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 TLH 383, LSB 557
Seek Where Ye May to Find a Way



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| <p>1. Seek where ye may To find a way
That leads to your salvation;
My heart is stilled, On Christ I build,
He is the one Foundation.
His Word is sure, His works endure;
He doth o'erthrow My every foe;
Through Him I more than conquer.</p> <p>2. Seek whom ye may To be your stay;

None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed, This Man prevailed,
The God-man, and none other.
Our Servant-Lord Did help afford:
We're justified, For He hath died,
The Guiltless for the guilty.</p> | <p>3. Seek Him alone, Who did atone,
Who did your souls deliver;
Yea, seek Him first, All ye who thirst
For grace that faileth never.
In every need Seek Him indeed;
To every heart He will impart
His blessings without measure.</p> <p>4. My heart's Delight, My Crown most bright,
Thou, Jesus, art forever.
Nor wealth nor pride Nor aught beside
Our bond of love shall sever.
Thou art my Lord; Thy precious Word
Shall be my guide, Whate'er betide.
Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust Thee!</p> |
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"God Manifested in the Power of Jesus over Nature"

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 over Nature

This week Jesus finds us wrecked by storms and troubles, and He shows Himself strong to save and deliver. He calms the sea. He rebukes the waves. He sits on the heavenly throne and rules His kingdom in the powerful kindness of His Word. He is light in the darkness and relief in distress. And He loves us, even as He stations us in the world to love those around us. This week's readings again bring us to Jesus. He finds us and surprises us with His blessings.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:23-27: The Winds and Waves Still Know

In our Lord Jesus divinity and humanity are united. Jesus is tired, asleep in the storm-tossed boat. But awakened by the disciples' pleas, Jesus puts the waves to sleep. Here is the 31-year-old eternal One. Here is the tired sustainer of all things. Here is the hungry Lord and giver of life. Here is the crucified and buried Savior and Shepherd of our Souls. Here divinity and humanity are united, not only in one person, but also in one purpose: your salvation. Imagine it: the Lord of heaven in onboard, and the wind and waves still know the voice who ruled them while He dwelt below. *O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice.*

Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, are You, O LORD on high! Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2: Who is King?

The bond-bursting cord-cutting kings of this world unite in the rebellion against the Lord, His creation and His Christ, pursuing deathward a freedom from goodness and beauty and life itself. But the Lord will have none of it. He laughs, derisive and angry, and sends His Son to be exalted on the holy hill of Golgotha. Jesus is King, the nations are His heritage, the earth His possession, and our safety from the coming collapse is in the shadow of His wings. "Blessed are all who take refuge in Him." *O Lord, curb our rebellion, and by Your Spirit help us to find safety and salvation in the kingdom of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:8-10: The Debt and Payment of Love

Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor. This is our debt, and we make payments out of the riches of God's love for us. God is love. His banner over us is love. He so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would never taste death, but live in glory forever. He showed His love in this, that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. He first loved us. Stunning! We love because He first loved us. *O Lord, we thank You that You laid down Your life for us. Keep us rejoicing and living in Your love. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32: Singing (and Confessing) with Simeon

Christmas was 40 days ago. Today, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are in the temple offering the required sacrifices, and Simeon's waiting is finished. God had promised this faithful old man that he would see the Lord's Christ before his death, and now the Lord's Christ has come into His temple, carried in the arms of His mother. "Lord," prays Simeon, taking the child in his arms, "now I can die without distress. Here is Your light and glory. Here is your salvation." We pray with Simeon every time we take and eat and drink the Lord's body and blood. Now we are ready for a peace-filled death, Jesus is our salvation. *Lord, let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen the salvation which You prepared before the sight of all people. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33: Jesus, Our Cheer

Exhausted, afraid, soaked in sweat and sea water, having fought all night against this storm, Jesus stands on His wave pulpit and preaches, "Be of good cheer!" To the disciples and to us: "Be of good cheer." There are, we remind Jesus, not many cheery things, but He is not finished. His sermon has two more sentences. "It is I. Do not be afraid." Jesus is our cheer, our bravery, our confidence, our fearlessness, the buoy of our sinking hearts and hopes. He is our storm-stopper and wave-calmer, our sin-forgiver and death-destroyer. He stands atop the troubles and with the voice that created the sun and the stars commands: Be of good cheer! *Lord God, grant us the cheerfulness of resting in Your promises. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 4:16-25, Abraham's Hopeless Hope

Abraham hoped against hope: "in hope he believed against hope" (4:18). God had promised a child, but he was too old. His wife Sarah was too old. They had hoped and prayed for a child, but decades of barrenness buried their hope. Nothing in the wisdom of the world, no help from doctors, no strength of man could revive their hope. But the Lord had promised, and Abraham knew that God cannot lie. This is hoping against hope, walking by faith and not sight, trusting the seemingly impossible promises of God. Abraham became the father of many nations. Abraham is the father of all us Christians, we promise-believers who treasure the unseen promise of life eternal. *We trust, O Lord, Your promises and hope in You. Deliver us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97: The Lord reigns. How do you feel about that?

The LORD reigns. How do you feel about that? The Psalm tells us how we ought to feel: "Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of the isles be glad!" Righteousness and justice are with the LORD wherever He goes, and gladness and rejoicing follow. "Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice" (97:8). How could we not rejoice? The LORD preserves our souls. He delivers us out of the grasp of all our enemies. Soon we will see His glory face-to-face and know the comfort and kindness of His holy name. *You, O LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods, bring us at last to the light of Your heavenly throne room. Amen.*