

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 85:5-6; 18:1-2, 27, 32, 49

The sorrows of Sheol sur- | rounded me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord,\*  
He heard my voice from His | temple.  
I will love You, O | Lord, my strength.\*  
The Lord is my rock and my | fortress.  
For You will save the humble | people,\*  
but will bring down | haughty looks.  
It is God who arms | me with strength,\*  
and makes my way | perfect.  
Therefore I will give thanks to | You, O Lord,\*  
and sing praises | to Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 2:29

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, 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  
Salvation Unto Us Has Come

TLH 377, LSB 555  
Paul Speratus



1. Salvation unto us has come  
By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom,  
They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.



“The Lord’s Call to Repentance”

**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: **The Lord's Call to Repentance**

The Lord comes to us, but not in the manner we would expect. He comes not with fairness, but with forgiveness for all. He comes, not to spare us from death, but to die it for us. He comes, not to simply live, but to live a life fulfilling the law. He comes, not to speak for us, but to teach us how to speak His Word. He comes, not to give us a treasure to hide, but to give us a gift to use. He comes, not to encourage us to leave others be, but to proclaim to them the reality of Himself. He comes, not to elicit only our worship, but the worship of the entire creation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:1-16 – The Lord isn't Fair, but He is Generous**

It's not fair. That is the basic premise of the complaint of the laborers. They have worked harder, longer, more faithfully. They have been through the heat of the day and the scorching sun. Why shouldn't they get greater rewards? Because the Lord isn't fair. He does not give as we deserve. And thanks be to God for that. The assumption of the Laborers is that their work in the vineyard has earned them their wages, that they don't deserve to be thrown into prison. But the reality is every worker deserves the wages of death, as sin demands. But our Lord, who is generous, Who gives what is His as He so chooses, gives His life for sinners. He pays eternal wages for work He Himself has done. *Lord, thank You for giving me what is Yours. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 23 – Not Abandoned to Death**

Perhaps the most frightening thing in this life is when you are forced to confront the darkness of death, when you are forced to look up and see the shadow cast over all creation, and to realize that it comes for all, rich/poor, great/small, that it is no respecter of persons. And in this, there is the temptation to believe that we are alone. But David reminds us that the Lord does not abandon us, even in death. "I will fear no evil, for You are with me." The Lord walks through this valley of death with us, and in fact, ahead of us. His are the steps we follow, into the grave, and back out. The Lord has not abandoned us to death, but has tasted it for us, that it would no longer hold us captive or cause us fear. *Lord, thank You for defeating death for me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2:22-32 – Praying for the End**

"Lord, now let thou servant depart in peace." These words are familiar to all who have used the historic liturgy. We sing them after receiving to our mouths Christ's body and blood. And we do so for good reason. Here we join our voices to Simeon's prayer. Having seen the Lord's Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we pray to depart in peace, according to the Word of the Lord. That is to say, every time we pray these words, we are praying for the end to come, the end of our lives where we will be called to eternal glory with the Lord. And so, every faithful Christian who has departed this life confiding in their Savior, has at that moment received an answer of "yes" to this most ancient prayer. *Lord, let me live and die, confessing You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 1:4-10 – Speaking Boldly the Word**

There is a great temptation to be afraid that when we speak we are somehow going to mess up the confession of the faith, that we will do such damage to the church because of our own inadequacies, that it would be better for us to not speak than to risk messing it up. However, the Lord, Who has planted His word into our ears, and through that also into our hearts and minds, will also cause that Word to come from our mouth. Even when we don't cite it precisely, the Holy Spirit will still work through His Word to create faith, soften hearts, and bring many into the kingdom. Therefore, we do well neither to fear either the speaking nor those we speak to, but should strive only to be faithful. *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:14-30 – Being Faithful with a Little**

The devil would have us take the great treasure of the Lord's Word and hide it in the ground, bury it, so that it is never used in this life. He does this because He knows that the Word, when it is wielded, sharpens Saints, produces good works for our neighbor, creates a devout faith in the Lord, and brings sinners out of the devil's house and into the house of the Lord. So the devil would have us not use it. The Lord, however, encourages us to use His Word in our daily lives, living by it, confessing it to our neighbor, and teaching it to our children. In doing that, the gift the Lord gives to us multiplies greatly, and we, who are faithful, are bid on the last day, like these servants, to "enter into the joy of your master." *Lord, help me to use Your Word daily in my life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 17:22-34 – Everyone Has a God**

The simple reality of the world is that everyone has a god. The question, then, is who is that god, what is its name? Is it the god of mammon? Is it the god of Athletica? Is it the god of politics? Or perhaps the god of evolution? Regardless, everyone has a god. But only the Christian has the true God who saves. This God, who is unknown to the world, is preached by the Church for the same reason Paul preaches at the Areopagus, that those who worship in darkness would be brought into the light. The Christian God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is He who created everything, rules everything, and is coming back to judge everything. Most importantly, this is the God who has redeemed everything. *Lord, help me to proclaim You to the world. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 114 – The Lord of Creation**

The same God who created the sky, the mountains, the sea, the land, and filled them all, that God also has control over His creation. He alone can tell it to move or to be still. And at His presence alone creation leaps for joy, trembles in fear, and worships its creator. Indeed, even the stones may cry out in praise. We ought to learn from this, then, that the Lord, and not the creation, is to be worshiped. We, who have been created in the image of God, are indeed to be caretakers of creation, but not to the extent that it becomes another god. Creation worships the Lord, so we ought to follow its gaze and do the same, but realizing, the Lord came, not as a mountain, but as a man, to redeem man. *Lord, bless my right worship of You. Amen.*

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