

“The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 28:8-9, 1-2, 7**
 The Lord / is their strength,*
 and He is the saving refuge of His a- / nointed.
 Save Your people, and bless Your in- / heritance;*
 shepherd them also, and bear them up for- / ever.
 To You I will cry, O / Lord my Rock:*
 do not be si- / lent to me,
 lest, if You are si- / lent to me,*
 I become like those who go down / to the pit.
 Hear the voice of my supplications when I / cry to You,*
 when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctu- / ary.
 The Lord is my strength / and my shield:*
 my heart trusted in Him, and / I am helped.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Romans 5:18**
 “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord of all power and might, the Author and Giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall**
 TLH 369, LSB 562
 Lazarus Spengler



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| <p>1. All mankind fell in Adam's fall.
 One common sin infects them all;
 From sire to son the bane descends,
 And over all the curse impends.</p> <p>2. Through all man's powers corruption creeps
 And him in dreadful bondage keeps:
 In guilt he draws his infant breath
 And reaps its fruits of woe and death.</p> | <p>5. As by one man all mankind fell
 And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
 So by one Man, who took our place,
 We all received the gift of grace.</p> <p>6. We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours,
 New light, new hope, new strength, new pow-
 ers: May grace our every way attend
 Until we reach our journey's end!</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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Righteousness Born of Baptismal Grace**

“In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ” (LSB 271). Thus says the pastor to those born anew in the font. “As living members of a living Christ” (LSB 603.2), how do you live? This week’s lessons explore the theme of righteousness born of baptismal grace, that is, how you “grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of [His] holy name” (LSB 271). The Hymn of the Week (LSB 562) holds the distinction of being one of only two hymns that is quoted in the Lutheran Confessions. Like the baptismal liturgy, it gives voice to the full strength of the Law and the full consolation of the Gospel.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:20-26 The RIGHTEOUSNESS Born of Baptismal Grace**

The righteousness born of baptismal grace is very different from the false righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Outwardly they were the most righteous of all, yes, even “white-washed tombs.” But inwardly they were as dead men’s bones. Your righteousness, O baptized child of God, is the genuine righteousness of full and free forgiveness in Christ alone. Meditate on Jesus’ expansion of the Law here to bring you to repentance. And rejoice in the righteousness of the One who speaks these words. For He came to keep the Law for you, that you would be saved, fed, and declared holy for His sake. *Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, Be praised for this blest mystery: That Word and water thus revive / And join us to Your Tree of Life (LSB 595.5). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **INTRODUCTION TO Ps 119, sixth part (WAW v41-48) “Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Me.”**

Psalms 119 has been compared to “a tree of two and twenty branches, each with eight boughs, from which drops of sweetness continually fall.” As the Hebrews sang this portion of the Psalm and lifted up their hands towards Jerusalem (v. 48), from this branch (vss. 41-48) dropped many fruits: steadfast love (vs. 41), the trustworthy word (v. 42), the word of truth (vs. 43), divine precepts (v. 45), a testimony fit to be spoken before kings (v. 46), and delight in God’s commandments (v. 47). These all pointed ahead to the Word made flesh in the New Jerusalem. *Glory to You, O Father, for Your steadfast love for sinners; glory to You, O Son, for Your Word is my life; Glory to You, O Spirit, for You grant me to walk in a wide place, now and forevermore. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 6:3-11 The Righteousness Born of BAPTISMAL Grace**

You are baptized. Now what? The daily rhythm of the Christian life is often presented today as vision casting (Rick Warren), becoming a better you (Joel Osteen), or health and wealth (T.D. Jakes). But these patterns are contrary to the Word of God. Rather, the daily rhythm in Romans 6 is death and resurrection. As Christ died, so you must die to sin, yes, die to everything in you that is contrary to the Word of God through repentance. And as Christ rose, so you daily rise with Him in hearing and believing the word of forgiveness. Thus you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. *O God . . . Turn us from ev’ry false allegiance, That we may trust in Christ alone; Raise up in us a chosen people / Transformed by love to be Your own (LSB 600.3). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 20:1-17j “No Other Gods Before My Face”**

Question: What part of the Bible is common intellectual property for Jews, Christians, and even for many secular governments? Answer: The Ten Commandments, as shown by their presence in Luther’s Small Catechism, in the Synagogue, and in the lobby of numerous government buildings. As you meditate on the Commandments and Luther’s explanations, you are driven to repentance as part of baptismal living. Herein you see how you have joined the first Adam to sin against God (Commandments #1-3) and against your neighbor (Commandments #4-10). And you flee to Christ crucified, on whom hangs your life and salvation. *Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we flee, Who pleads for us endlessly. Have mercy, Lord! (LSB 581.12). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 19:16-30 Wealth and Piety for Saints and Sinners?**

What is the relationship of wealth and piety to saints and sinners? We see in the story of the rich young ruler that sinners are always inclined to trust in their wealth. Building on yesterday’s lesson from Exodus, how astonishing that this young man thought that he had perfectly kept all of the Commandments! But how poor he was before the judgment seat of Christ. Saints, on the other hand, while always tempted by wealth, will fear, love, and trust in God alone. With men it is impossible to enter the kingdom of God, but with God it is possible. The fullness of the deity is with you in Christ, making you rich in heavenly treasure. *O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage. Govern them and lift them up forever (Ps 28:9). Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 2:4-10 The Righteousness Born of Baptismal GRACE**

See how the new creation is the work of God’s grace, as was the first creation. In the beginning God created Adam out of dust. And now, in Christ, He has made you alive, who were dead in trespasses and sin. For Christ was Himself dead in trespasses and sins, namely, crushed under the weight of your sin on the cross. And His resurrection was the rebirth of the new creation, once again by grace. His death and resurrection are given to you by grace—yes, by the merciful heart of God—in Holy Baptism, uniting you to Christ, the new and greater Adam, and leading you where He has gone. *Grant us, O God, the strength and courage / To live the faith our lips declare; Bless us in our baptismal calling; Christ’s royal priesthood help us share (LSB 600.3). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:36-50 Jesus Eats with a Pharisee and Absolves a Sinful Woman**

Was this sinful woman Mary Magdalene? Maybe so. She most certainly is an icon of repentance. As one hymn puts it, “Exalt with praise the clemency of Christ this day, Who by His seven-fold gifts of grace doth purge the seven-fold guilt away.” Thus do you confess your sins, which are “seven-fold,” that is, too numerous to count? Jesus forgives your sins “seventy times seven” and welcomes you to His table. And you, in turn, wash His feet with your tears and gaze upon His nail-pierced feet. *Savior, when in dust to Thee / Low we bow the adoring knee; When, repentant, to the skies / Scarce we lift our weeping eyes; O, by all Thy pains and woe / Suffered once for us below, Bending from Your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry! (LSB 419.1). Amen.*

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