



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10**

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
 in the midst of Your / temple.
 According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the
 earth:*

Your right hand is full of / righteousness.
 Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
 in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
 God is in her / palaces;*

He is known as her / refuge.
 Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,*
 because of Your / judgments.
 For this is God, our God forever and / ever;*

He will be our guide even / unto death.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 126:6**

“He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home
 with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such
 things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without
 You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus
 Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold** TLH 260, LSB 745
 Martin Luther



1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
 And let Thy pity waken:
 How few are we within Thy Fold,
 Thy saints by men forsaken!
 True faith seems quenched on every hand,
 Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
 Dark times have us o'ertaken.

5. As silver tried by fire is pure
 From all adulteration,
 So through God's Word shall men endure
 Each trial and temptation.
 Its light beams brighter through the cross,
 And, purified from human dross,
 It shines through every nation.

3. May God root out all heresy
 And of false teachers rid us
 Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
 That shall our speech forbid us?
 By right or might we shall prevail;
 What we determine cannot fail:
 We own no lord and master."

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 July 21-27, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God

The Lord promises to take care of what belongs to Him. He provides shepherds, guards against false teachers, makes us His beloved children in Holy Baptism, forgives our sins, comforts us in the midst of sorrow, promises an eternal victory over the wicked, and continues to serve us through His gifts. All this comes to us who are purchased with His holy and precious blood. And through all of this we are made partakers of eternal life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23 – Bearing Proper Fruit

How can we tell who the false teachers are? Jesus tells us to watch for their fruits. And the primary fruit of any teacher is their teaching, their doctrine. In order to rightly distinguish the false from the true teachers we must have our ears attuned to the scriptures. We cannot look at appearances or how charismatic one is. We cannot look at numbers or popularity, because these can all be deceptive. The only true judge of the teacher is God's Word. And in order to rightly judge the doctrine, the fruit, of the teacher, we must ourselves know true doctrine. And this allows us to not only steer clear of the false teachers, but also to draw near to the godly shepherds. *Lord, help me to know Your Word and rightly distinguish between true and false teachers. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50 – Forgiven Much

One of the conundrums that we have in this life is that it's difficult to know exactly how deep our sin runs, and how costly our redemption is. Jesus reminds the Pharisee that one who is forgiven much loves much, and he who is forgiven little, loves little. But the reality is we are all forgiven much, we just don't always realize it. We recognize some of our sins but not all of them. We recognize that our sins are bad, but not the depths of their wickedness. So the Lord gives us the mirror of the law, not just to bring our conscience to terror, but also to show how much the Lord is actually forgiving through His death, how costly our redemption is and how valuable His blood is. *Lord, help me to recognize how much I am forgiven, so I may learn to love much. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 – Children of the Heavenly Father

The Lord teaches us that we are His children. We have been rescued from slavery to the devil and his house and brought into the service of the Lord and His house. We belong to Him, having been claimed by Him in our Baptism into His Son. By this we are made His children. And being clothed in His Son, our Lord Jesus, this means we are also heirs with the Son. We are inheritors of what belongs to our Father. Just as in this life we receive an earthly inheritance from our earthly fathers, so now we also receive an eternal inheritance from our heavenly Father. We inherit the kingdom of God, righteousness, peace, and immortality, because we are Children of the Heavenly Father. *Lord, thank You for adopting me as Your child through Your Son. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 – Delivered from the Wicked

Over and over in the scriptures the Lord promises to deliver us from the hands of the wicked. We are promised that the Lord will fight on our behalf, that the victory belongs to Him, and we are recipients and partakers of that victory. The trouble is, we don't always see that reality in this life, because the fullness of these promises are not for this life, but for the life to come. As we learn from the example of the 3 young men in the furnace, the Lord will, one way or another, deliver us. Sometimes that is through the destruction of the wicked, sometimes that's through calling us to His nearer presence, but always it's through the restoration of all things on the Last Day. *Lord, help me to look to the promises of our deliverance on the Last Day. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 – Why Jesus Came

Jesus is the Lord of creation. He is the King of Kings. He is the mighty ruler. So, one would think that when He comes into the flesh He comes to rule in power and might. But here Jesus reminds us of what it means to be Lord, King, and Ruler. He has people who He must take care of, just like any earthly king does. However, His service and care of His people is an eternal one. Our problem is not simply a lack of food or roads with potholes, rather, our problem is we are dead in our trespasses and sins. So, He comes not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom. Through this He offers His true service as our king, redeeming us from eternal death, for this is why He came. *Lord, thank You for serving me in Your death. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 – A Church Purchased by Blood

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood." This is the commendation which St. Paul gives to pastors of all time. But it's a wonderful reminder, not just to pastors, but to all Christians. This congregation of which you are a part belongs to God, it is given shepherds by the Holy Spirit, and it is purchased with the blood of Christ. It is fully His possession, His delight, and His flock. He is the chief shepherd. And because of this, despite our own sins, and the sins of our shepherds, the Lord ensures that His flock remains with Him. *Lord, thank You for making me a part of Your blood-bought flock. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – Weeping Turned to Joy

In this life we will have trouble. In this life we will have sorrow, and pain, and sickness, and even death. These are the things which constantly plague us and follow after us. But in the midst of this weeping and trouble we have the joy of the Lord. We are promised that these things will not last. That they are temporary. And so now, as we endure these things we have joy running alongside them to sustain us until we at last attain the crown of righteousness. Then, we who have gone out weeping will come into the eternal home of the Lord with shouts of joy. *Lord, keep me in Your joy in the midst of sorrow, looking to the eternal joy of Your kingdom. Amen.*

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