

“Submission to the Lord of Compassion”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 47:1-2, 3, 6-8**

Oh, clap your hands, all you / peoples!*
 Shout to God with the voice of / triumph!
 For the Lord Most High is / awesome;*
 He is a great King over / all the earth.
 He will subdue the peoples / under us,*
 and the nations un- / der our feet.
 Sing praises to God, sing / praises!*
 Sing praises to our King, sing / praises!
 For God is the King of / all the earth;*
 sing praises with under- / standing.
 God reigns over the / nations;*
 God sits on His / holy throne.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6-7b**

“Remember your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and give to us those things that be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Depends on Our Possessing

TLH 425, LSB 732
 Unknown



1. All depends on our possessing
 God's abundant grace and blessing,
 Though all earthly wealth depart.
 He who trusts with faith unshaken
 In His God is not forsaken
 And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.

2. He who hitherto hath fed me
 And to many joys hath led me,
 Is and ever shall be mine.
 He who did so gently school me,
 He who still doth guide and rule me,
 Will remain my Help divine.

4. When with sorrow I am stricken,
 Hope my heart anew will quicken,
 All my longing shall be stilled.
 To His loving-kindness tender
 Soul and body I surrender;
 For in Him alone I build.

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: Submission to the Lord of Compassion

Christ and His cross bring many things, the most important of which is life and salvation. For the sake of His atoning work on the cross, you have been forgiven all of your sins. Calm your troubled hearts with the promise that for Christ's sake you are made righteous before your heavenly Father. Yet proclaiming the cross of Christ also brings tribulation. A servant is not above his master and we are not above Jesus. As we proclaim His Gospel of salvation into a world that needs it, yet does not want to hear it, we will be persecuted. And that is alright, it is exactly how it must be. But as we proclaim Christ's cross, even as we bear our own, God has promised to bring life and salvation through those Gospel Words, even to our enemies.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:1-9—Jesus Feeds...Again

This is a weird one...Jesus feeds a multitude and the disciples are amazed. But that isn't the weird part. The weird part is that Jesus has already done this, and with more people to feed, too. Now I don't think that His disciples forgot about such a miraculous thing, but I do understand how they might still be skeptical. After all, how many times has my Lord supplied me with daily bread and yet I still am doubtful that He will do it again? Or how many times has He forgiven my sins with His own fleshy-bread and yet I still find myself worried that this time will be different? No, I am glad that Jesus feeds a second multitude: It just might be His way of showing me that He will always give to me everything I need, despite my dreadful doubt. *Bread of Life, grant me Your gifts every day of my life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:19-23—Slaves of Righteousness

Paul is very blunt in the way that he talks about sin. He calls it is of, and leads to death. That is, the things about sin and how we wish to look at it, we think it isn't that big of a deal. But Paul, really God through Paul, doesn't speak that way. And why would He? The wages of sin is death and it has been since way back in the Garden of Eden, when Adam enslaved us all to sin and unrighteousness. But Christ has now broken those chains and liberated us. We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness. And so we do not have the license to view sin as anything other than that which brings death upon us. Only then can we know what true life is in Christ: forgiveness of sin, not permission. *Christ Jesus, in forgiveness, make us slaves to righteousness each day. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28—Slaves vs. Rulers

James and his brother John don't know what it means to sit at Christ's side, none of us really do. They think it is going to be a thing of glory, and it will be, just not the kind of glory that the sinner thinks of. The sinner hears of glory as kingship and golden crowns, pomp and circumstance, regal attire and servants aplenty. But the glory of Christ, the glory that brings life and salvation to the sinner, is a glory that can only be found on the cross and His atoning sacrifice for us. That is why Paul says, "We speak Christ crucified," and why wouldn't we? What else is there to speak? Eventually, James would learn this: serving others like Christ did and proclaiming the crucifixion would cost him his head. *Gracious God, thank You for James the Elder and his proclamation of Christ crucified. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:23-25—The Prophet of Tears Bringing Comfort

Jeremiah is known to preach some dark and heavy stuff. It was given to him by God to preach so it is all true, but even so, being a prophet of doom can get pretty old. And most of what he preaches comes true in his lifetime, so he is aware of the Babylonian captivity and Jerusalem crumbling and the Temple being torn down. That is why when he gets the chance to proclaim some Gospel, it is beautiful to the ears. And it is here that he says that God will restore all that He has taken away: Jerusalem will be known as righteous again and will be a holy hill. And this is not because of what the people do but because God has promised them a Savior and declared that He would never forsake them. *Father, when You must tear us down because of our sin, revive us once again, just like You have promised. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:24-31—The Apostles' Cross

Jesus is about to send out His disciples, but He wants them to know something: everything He suffered, so will they. The Gospel is something that the comfortable sinner who is confident in His own righteousness will always reject. And when people reject the message, they reject the messenger. And when they reject the messenger, they reject the One who sent Him. But all of that is fine, because salvation in Christ must be proclaimed to all nations. And Jesus tells His disciples flat out, "When you proclaim life, you will receive death." Our text is just a warm-up for the disciples. Showtime will happen at Pentecost. And thank God that it does: because it is through the proclamation of Christ crucified and through the Apostles that you and I have been brought to faith and granted eternal life. *Jesus, thank You for sending out Your disciples. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:8-23—Paul And His Cross

What a whirlwind of a time Paul must have had at Lystra. One moment people want to worship him as Hermes, the next he is knocked unconscious by stones and left for dead. But this is his lot in life as an Apostle and so when he comes to, he dusts himself off and travels to the next town so that he can continue the message of Christ crucified. And then, wouldn't you know it, he comes back to Lystra proclaiming Christ again. With these words he encouraged the brothers in the faith and strengthened the souls of many. For even amidst persecution, Christ's Word does not return to Him empty but fulfills His purpose of killing sinners and raising them to new life through the forgiveness of sins. *God, thank You for sending Your servant Paul so that Your Word could be proclaimed to the nations. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125—Let Us Pray

Even though my enemies surround me, do not put me to shame, O Lord. My soul cries out to You, for only You can save me. Teach me Your ways and proclaim the truth of Your salvation that I might be lead in Your ways alone. Do not remember my sins, gracious God, but only Your steadfast love and mercy, for my sins condemn me, but Your mercy grants me life. Instruct me in Your way. Show me my sin and proclaim to me Your forgiveness. Make me clean and pardon my guilt for Your sake alone, that I might fear Your name and trust in You. Remember Your covenant with me and turn my eyes ever toward You. Guard me in the midst of tribulation and rejection. Be gracious to me when I am all alone that I may wait patiently for You and Your salvation. Redeem Israel, O God, "Redeem me out of all my troubles." Amen.

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