

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 126:3**
"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."

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, be-
hold
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.

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."

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.



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 30-August 5, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God
“You will know the truth,” Jesus says, “and the truth will set you free.” Truth is freedom and life, and this is because Jesus is the Truth. False teachers and false teaching are dangerous because the point us away from Jesus, away from His death and resurrection, away from His mercy and gentleness. We hear this warning this week: the call to seek the truth, to abandon falsehood, to be devoted to the pure doctrine of God, and find in this doctrine our joyous freedom.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23: Beware!

“Beware!” Every time that word is used in the New Testament it is talking about one thing: false doctrine. False doctrine, it turns out, is the most dangerous thing in the world. There are a lot of things that can destroy our bodies, but false doctrine and unholy teaching is like cancer to our soul. “Beware,” says Jesus, “of false prophets.” Look out for them, because they come to devour you with lies. Out life is found in truth, or better, in the Truth. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” says Jesus, and the truth of His death and resurrection give us life and peace. *Lord Jesus, protect us from false doctrine, and keep us in the truth of Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH): The Cords of the Wicked

“Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law” (119:61). Can you imagine it? All the enemies of God have gathered around you, they’ve tripped you, tied you up hand and foot, and they are dragging you around with their cords and ropes. They abuse and afflict you, and still you pray to the Lord, “I do not forget Your law.” No matter the trouble we have in this life, the Lord’s comfort delight our soul. *O Lord, I am a companion of all who fear You, of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O Lord, is full of Your steadfast love; teach me Your statutes! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17: Children or Heirs

Paul talks about two spirits, the “spirit of slavery” and the “Spirit of adoption of sons.” Those are the two options: a slave or a son. The devil wants us enslaved, bound by sin and the fear of death. The Son comes to set us free, and if He sets us free we are free indeed! He sets us free by adopting us into His family. Jesus is our brother! So, in Christ we are free from sin, free from condemnation, free from the fear of death, and we cry out to God as a gracious heavenly Father who delights to hear our prayers. *Heavenly Father, thank You for adopting us as Your children and giving us the Spirit of adoption as sons. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21: Jeremiah will stand before God

It’s not easy being a prophet. Jeremiah was sent to stand before rulers and kings and preach the thundering terror of God’s judgment. He would suffer for it. Jeremiah was ridiculed, arrested, thrown in a pit, exiled, maybe even stoned to death by his own countrymen. But more frightful than standing before kings was the prospect of standing before God. But look how the Lord comforts Jeremiah. “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before Me” (15:19). Clothed in Christ, we have nothing to fear. We are ready to stand before the Lord in the perfection of the forgiveness of our sins. *O Lord, cover us with the righteousness of Your Son so that we would be ready to stand before You in joy and peace. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29: Two Houses

Here are two houses. One built on rock, the other built on sand. Before the rain comes they look the same. Maybe the house built on sand looks even nicer. (They saved so much money on the foundation!) But the storm shows the truth: one stands, the other is rubble. Jesus uses this picture to show the difference between the people who hear His preaching and those who do not. The world will pass away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever, and when we are established in His Word we also stand. *Lord, build our house on the immovable foundation of Your Word. Strengthen us to stand through the storm so that we will, at last, stand before You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38: Paul Preaches in Miletus

What a sermon! The pastors in Ephesus travel to Miletus to meet Paul and hear final words from him. The central verse is 20:28, “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.” Theologically, this text stuns us as it talks about the “blood of God.” God has blood. God has a body. God is born. God dies. The incarnation of Jesus makes the unimaginable possible: the eternal God bleeds for us, and His blood redeems us from sin, from death, and the power of the devil. *O Lord, grant us joy and peace in Your blood and death. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126: Back From Captivity

The Babylonians dragged the people of God into exile in 586 BC. For 70 years they sat by the rivers of Babylon and wept as they remembered Zion. The Lord heard their cries and delivered them, and they pray this Psalm as the travel back to the Holy Land. “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.” When we remember the death of Jesus for us we pray the same Psalm. The Lord also has delivered us. He has brought us out of darkness into His kingdom of light and life. *O Lord, You have rescued us. We are glad! Amen.*

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