

“The Goodness of Being Before the Lord”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 66:10-11; Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad with her,*
 all you who | love her;
 that you may feed and be | satisfied*
 with the consolation of her | bosom.
 I was glad when they | said to me,*
 “Let us go into the house | of the Lord.”
 Our feet have been | standing*
 within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
 Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem:*
 “May they prosper who | love you.”
 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will | now say,*
 “Peace be with- | in you.”

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 6:37-38**

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who do worthily deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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
Jesus, Priceless Treasure

TLH 347, LSB 384
 Johann Franck



1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,
 Fount of purest pleasure,
 Truest Friend to me.
 Ah, how long in anguish
 Shall my spirit languish,
 Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
 Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
 I will suffer naught to hide Thee,
 Naught I ask beside Thee.

2. In Thine arms I rest me;
 Foes who would molest me
 Cannot reach me here.
 Though the earth be shaking,
 Every heart be quaking,
 Jesus calms my fear.
 Lightnings flash And thunders crash:
 Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
 Jesus will not fail me.

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 March 10-16, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Goodness of Being Before the Lord

This week we will focus on what it means to be before the Lord. What does this mean? How do we become worthy of such an honor? We see what it means to trust in the Promise and the mercies of our Lord, that He lavishes grace upon His people for Christ's sake. That is the wonderful joy of life before our God and I hope that over this week you will be comforted by His Word and that your joy as His child will grow all the more as you reflect on the goodness and mercy He grants to us all.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15 – Unexpected Reactions

One of the most interesting aspects of this incredible miracle is the reaction of the people. They aren't angry. They don't act entitled. Rather, they want to make Jesus their king. But Jesus didn't want that. He was already a king. And His kingdom is not of this world. We are made a part of His kingdom through faith. And as part of this kingdom, our God provides for us all that we need for this life. But this miracle reminds us that Jesus works how and when He desires, not according to what we would have Him do. That is good because He ends up giving us far more than we would ever think to ask for. *O Lord, I praise and thank You for Your faithful care of all my needs. Continue to be with me and bless me in all things that are needful. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46 – Being Still Before God

This Psalm contains a wonderfully comforting phrase, "Be still and know that I am God." These words are often comforting in times of uncertainty and fear. But why is it that we can be confident even if the earth falls away or the seas roar against us? Because God is greater than these things. His power to destroy is greater than the destructive power of creation. And He does not choose to destroy us. He protects us. He sustains us. His mercy is lavished upon His people even in our times of deepest fear and sorrow. We come to Him, in Jesus' name, Who is our refuge in the face of all that the world may throw at us. *O Lord, continue to be with me in the times of darkness, for You are my light. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31 – Law and Promise

Paul's thematic interpretation of the Old Testament here is an aid to us in our understanding of the Law's place in our lives. Just as the children of Abraham are blessed according to their mothers, we are blessed according to the Promise that is found in the Gospel of Jesus. The Law is not what defines us, nor is it the source of our identity as Christians. We are children of the promise, of the Gospel. And the promise that defines us is the promise of salvation, forgiveness, and life that is ours in Christ. *O Lord, You have made me Your child through the waters of Baptism and I rejoice in the life that You have given me. Be with me that I may remain steadfast and certain in this promise always. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13 – Holy Joy

Isaiah speaks words of comfort and hope to the people of Israel as they were facing destruction and exile. In this life, we find that there is much to fear. Not only are there natural disasters, but human disasters are a constant threat. Yet, God promises to be with His people. He promises that His comfort is there for you. We rest in God's promise, that He has given His Son to save us from death and all our enemies. Jesus is coming soon. His promise is good forever. *O Lord, grant that I may trust in You in the face of difficulties and sorrows, knowing that Your goodness and mercy is new for me each day. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51- Not His Will

Jesus is the faithful servant. Of course, His own will was in keeping with the will of the Father, that those who believe will have eternal life. That is the whole purpose of His coming. He has come to bring life, even eternal life that is realized on the Last Day, which we heard a bit about yesterday. This life comes to us through the one Who is the Bread of Life, Who has been given for the life of the world. We receive Christ in the Word and Sacrament, knowing with certainty that He is with us. And if He is with us, we can rest in Him. *O Lord, abide with me that I would abide in You and thereby find the peace and comfort that only You can give to me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11 – Confirming What is Ours

What a text full of Law this is! And yet, we are not children of the Law, but of the Promise. So what does this text do for us? It shows us that the Law still has a role in our lives. It serves to guide us in how to live out faith in the world. Note that none of these things achieve election. That is entirely the work and decision of God. Our actions serve to show our own acceptance of His choice we have been given in Christ. Our good works show how our lives are impacted by the incredible reality in Christ. It is indeed good for us to seek to be virtuous, self-controlled, steadfast, and godly people. Not because it earns us something before God, but it serves our neighbors. *O Lord, strengthen me with all that I need to live before You as Your child. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139- An Ever Present God

David's words in this Psalm are familiar to us. He notes all of the ways that God is present with us and near us. He knows everything, is everywhere, and is our Creator. This Psalm wonderfully lays out many of the qualities that we know God to have. It describes the God whom we serve. We have spent time this week thinking about God's presence with us and the comfort we find in that presence, in addition to the life He gives to us through Christ. It is appropriate to conclude the week with a final reminder of Who it is that remains close to us by His Word and Sacrament. He is greater than we could expect. And because of His greatness, He grants us comfort and certainty of His love. *O Lord, You have promised to never abandon us and I pray that you would continue to grant me the certainty of Your loving presence through Your Word and Sacraments. Amen.*

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