

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."



SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 6:27

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal."



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



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.



PRAYER FOR **OURSELVES AND OTHERS**



SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

TLH 347, LSB 743 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,

Around the Word Devotions + March 14-20, 2021

"He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners"

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BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

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 14-20, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

Christ is our King. But what kind of King is He? We confess that He rules over all things from the Father's right hand as He has from eternity. As the Holy Spirit puts it in Hebrews 1:3, "He upholds the universe by the word of His power." But when He appeared among sinners on this earth, did He demand royal honors and glory? St. Paul teaches, "He emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:7). Though the crowds desired a king to fill their bellies with the food that perishes, Jesus withdrew to be

the humble, saving King they needed, the Priest-King who offered Himself for our sin.

SUIN

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15 "Daily Bread"

Jesus, the Word through whom the world was made, continues to uphold and bless His creation. God be praised! What do we and the rest of the world deserve when we turn away from God? We deserve to be separated from the Source of life. We deserve to die. Yet, Jesus gives bread to good and evil alike. This mercy comes to the world because Jesus' atoning death has obtained God's kindness. In other words, because Jesus died to reconcile us to God, all people have daily bread. The Lord feeds you with more than bread for your bodies. He saves your souls. Just as He fed the crowds with bread from the disciples' hands,

today He feeds the church with the preaching which came from their mouths. Feed me Your life-giving Word, O Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46 "Refuge and Strength"

Apocalyptic times make men act strangely. They stockpile food. They gather guns and ammunition. They make plans on how to escape their shadowy oppressors and survive. Is it possible that in the frantic race to prepare and survive that fear, love, and trust in God are lost? You bet. Our flesh wants to find saviors that we can heft in our hands. The more dangerous to our enemies, the better. But God laughs at our folly. The Lord brings desolations on the earth. He shatters the tools of war in which men trust for salvation. Every fortress and refuge collapses before Him. He alone is our Mighty Fortress, our very present help in trouble. Trust in God. Pray for daily bread. Love your neighbor. Fulfill your callings. Save me, O Lord my Fortress. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31 "An Allegory"

What a beautiful picture of who we are in Christ! At first, when the patriarch heard the promise of his coming son, he and Sarai both thought that it was up to them to make God's Word come true. Sarai gave Hagar, her servant, to Abram and Ishmael was conceived. He wasn't the son the Lord promised. The patriarch mixed faith with obedience. He confused law and gospel. Such mixtures wreck the comfort of God's grace alone for salvation. It is slavery. The Lord's saving promises cannot be kept by men, only believed. Praise God! You are children of Isaac who have been spiritually born of promise and faith, not law and obedience. We have not been born under the law as slaves but under the Gospel as free. *Grant me faith to trust in Your Word. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13 "Time of Favor"

The 49th chapter of Isaiah's prophesy reveals the holy conversation between the Father and Son. The Son, in faithful obedience, cast Himself on the Father's mercy and help throughout His days of humiliation. We, on the other hand, go astray after false gods and comforts and inherit a desolate heritage of sin and death. But because of the Son's righteousness, both in His obedience to the Father's will and in His willing sacrifice for our sin, He has become a covenant, a New Testament, for us. He speaks to us who are shackled by guilt, "Come out." He says to us who are dead in sin's darkness, "Appear." His voice raises us to eternal life. Sing for joy, dear saints! "The Lord has comforted His people." O Lord, grant me the comfort of Your Gospel. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51 "Will of the Father"

What does God want from me in this life? It can be a hard question. We have many choices. Sometimes they are trivial, like where to eat lunch. Other times they are so weighty they seem nearly impossible to bear, such as moving the family to a new city. Which way does God want me to go? How will I know which way follows God's plan? Praise God that His will is perfectly revealed for your life. "This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day." Are you baptized? Have your sins been forgiven in Christ? Then take heart and make your choices boldly. God's will is done no matter what you eat or where you live. O Father, Thy will be done. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11 "Supplementing Faith with Virtue"

Is St. Peter undermining the Gospel by admonishing virtue "to make your calling and election sure?" No. The "precious and very great promises" carry the weight of salvation. They bind us by faith to Christ our brother through whom we become partakers of the divine nature. Escape from sin and death is a done deal. Now it is time to talk about virtue. There is no such thing as a Christian religion that's only the doctrine of Justification. It is only man-made religions that shut their ears against God's continued instruction in love. Therefore, with hearts resting in Christ, let us supplement our faith with godly virtue and good works. They will make our calling sure among our fellow Christians and give us joy! Give me virtue that flows from faith. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 "Wonderful Knowledge"

Man cannot escape God's presence. If we sneak away into dark holes in the world or in our minds to delight in sin, God will find us. Not even death can remove us from God's presence. Terror is not filling David's soul in this prayer. He is delighted and joyful. Why? God's presence is comfort and peace, not judgment and condemnation. His God is reconciled, a Savior from sin and death. It is the same with you. Your God sees you and knows you, but this is the sight of a heavenly Father for His children, Who knows you have been redeemed by Jesus' blood. God didn't knit you together in the womb resenting you for all the mistakes you would make. He created you from love knowing that you would be saved. By Your Word of grace, be with me Lord. Amen.

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