

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 **Galatians 4:28**
“Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of the promise.”

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.



“He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners”

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 19-25, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

Our God is a God of love and compassion. Though we were helplessly enslaved and afflicted, addicted to the desires and passions of the world and our flesh, the Lord sought us out and delivered us. “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10). Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, took upon Himself our flesh and blood, yet without sin. He suffered the sin of the world, our worldliness, unto death on the cross that we might be released from our bondage and set free.

“Exult, O earth; the Lord has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted.”

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15: This is the Prophet

The LORD promised to Moses, “I will raise up a prophet like you” (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). There had been many prophets, Elijah and Elisha, Isaiah and Jeremiah, but none quite like Moses. But when the people, more than 5,000 people, are fed by Jesus in the wilderness, they are astonished. They remember the Manna in the wilderness. They remember Moses and this promise, and they say, “This is truly the Prophet to come into the world” (John 6:14). They are right. Jesus is the promised Prophet, like Moses, but even greater. The Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). *Lord Jesus, give us our daily bread, and teach us Your grace and truth. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46: Safe in God's City

This Psalm gives us a marvelous picture: we are in a besieged city. Outside the city walls is chaos, crumbling mountains and roaring seas. Enemy armies are mustered all around us, but inside the city we are safe and provided for. There is a river, and God is in our midst, we shall not be moved. But then, if this were not enough, we are called to come up to the walls and look out to the battlefield. The Lord has gone out from the city; He is destroying the enemies, breaking spears and shattering bows, and in the triumph of battle He looks back to us and says, “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted in the earth!” *O Lord, we marvel at Your goodness, that You have triumphed over our enemies. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31: Children of Freedom

This text is a bit tricky, an extended analogy comparing two moms, two sons, two cities, two mountains, and two ways of standing before God. Hagar was Sarah's maidservant, and her son Ishmael was born through human effort to control the future. This is the doctrine of the Law, which is also represented by Mt. Sinai and the Pharisees in Jerusalem. But there is another son, Isaac, the son of the promise, born through the barrenness of Sarah. He is the child of promise, born free, and he corresponds to the heavenly Jerusalem and the doctrine of the Gospel. We, St. Paul reminds us, are the children of the Gospel, children of freedom, children begotten through the promise of the Gospel. *Lord Jesus, set us free, and bring us to the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13: The Father and the Son Plan Redemption

This passage is one of those wonderful places in the Scriptures where the Father is talking to the Son. (The entire chapter is a back-and-forth conversation). The Father is sending His Son to save and shepherd His people. “I will give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth” (Isaiah 49:8). The Son is the Father's joy, and He is our joy as well. Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! Break out in singing, O mountains! The LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on the afflicted” (49:13). We are the afflicted. We are the objects of His mercy. We are the restored, the revived, the redeemed and forgiven. God be praised! *O Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing to us Your conversation of mercy and Your council of love. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51: Jesus is the Bread of Life

There was once a tree whose fruit gave eternal life. But Adam and Eve ate from a different tree, and now we eat, day after day, food that barely sustains us. Dying, we feast on the bread of death. But Jesus is different food. “I am the bread of life” (6:48). “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever” (6:51). We eat this bread when we believe in Jesus. We feast on His flesh by faith in His promises. We have this life, His eternal life, when we trust that Jesus has paid the price for our sins, and that His death is our life. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life” (6:47). *Lord, give us faith in the works You accomplished by Your faith, that we would be filled with Your righteousness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11: Don't Forget You're Clean

St. Peter helps us start a virtue collection. “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love” (1:5-7). That's a good collection. That's a collection of good, and this is what we are supposed to be getting after in this life. Jesus has forgiven our sins. We are clothed in His righteousness. We are saved! Now control our own bodies to serve God and love our neighbor. *Grant to us, O Lord, a collection of virtue, self-control, patience, godliness, kindness, and love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139: We are Known. We are Created. We are Saved.

What a Psalm! David begins this prayer praising God's omniscience (knowledge of everything) and omnipresence (being everywhere). There is no where we can go to hide or escape God's presence. David continues by remembering that God created him. We were knit together in our mother's womb. David ends asking for the Lord's vengeance on evil-doers, and protection for His people. We are known. We are created. We are saved! What comfort. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.*

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