



“He is Risen to Overcome Death”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Luke 24:5-7, Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9**
 He is risen, Alle- | luia!*
 Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!
 Remember how He spoke to you? Alle- | luia!*
 “The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.”
 Alleluia! Alle- | luia!
 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in | all the earth,*
 who have set Your glory above the | heavens!
 For You have made Him a little lower than the | angels,*
 and You have crowned Him with glory and | honor.
 You have made Him to have dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
 you have put all things un- | der His feet.
 O | Lord, our Lord,*
 how excellent is Your name in | all the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 28: 5-6**
 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; through the same 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 **Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands** TLH 195, LSB 458
 Martin Luther



1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
 For our offenses given;
 But now at God's right hand He stands
 And brings us life from heaven;
 Therefore let us joyful be
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah!
 Hallelujah!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree-
 So strong His love!-to save us.
 See, His blood doth mark our door;
 Faith points to it, Death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Hallelujah!

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 31-April 6, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord Has Come As Long Promised

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! It was a strange and dreadful fight: when life and death contended. The victory remained with Life! The reign of Death was ended. Holy Scripture plainly says: "Death is swallowed up by death!" Death's sting is lost forever. Why? Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, for our offences given. But, now, at God's right hand He stands, to give us life from heaven. Therefore, let us joyful be, and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of Alleluia! *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Death never had a chance. Jesus is life and light, who spends these few nights in the grave so that you can spend eternity in life, rejoicing to see His face. The King of Righteousness is crucified to redeem the children of wrath. The Price of Life is buried to destroy death and bring life and immortality to us bound to death. Christ is risen, the first fruits of the immortal and eternal life to come. Let us rejoice this Easter Day, the suffering of Christ is ended, He is triumphant, and His eternal joy is on the way to us. *O Lord Jesus Christ, You are glorified in Your resurrection from the grave.*

Bring us also through the valley of death to stand before You in life never-ending. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111: The Wisdom of the Resurrection

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. This is the wisdom of the resurrection, the wisdom of knowing there is nothing else to fear. What are you afraid of? Sin? Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Condemnation? There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Death? O Death, where is your sting? Our Lord Jesus has overcome death and the grave. Are you afraid of the devil and his fallen angels? Christ made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them on the cross. There is none to fear but the LORD, and He comes to us and says, "Do not be afraid!" I will give thanks to You, *O LORD, will all my heart, for You have sent redemption to Your people. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Purge the Old Leaven

God's Old Testament people celebrated the Passover by removing all the yeast from their homes (see Exodus 12:15). St. Paul brings that idea to the New Testament Church. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. His blood marks us safe from eternal death. We celebrate His meal in the Lord's Supper, and part of our celebration is throwing out the old way of life, the leaven of malice and wickedness, and eating the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. In simplicity and peace, in the confidence of the forgiveness of sins, in the joy of the open tomb we gather to eat and drink and rejoice in the favor of God. *O Lord, bring us to Your table of peace and joy, and help us, by Your Spirit, to rejoice in all Your gifts. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:13-15, Astonished at Jesus

Our text gives us two reasons for being astonished at Jesus. First, He was so badly abused and beaten that He was unrecognizable. He was truly the Man of sorrows, afflicted beyond measure. But, second, He is high and lifted up and greatly exalted. He was dead, but is alive. He was ripped apart, but now He stands in glory. He was forsaken, but now He sits at the Father's right hand. He was humbled, even to the point of death on the cross, but now He is highly exalted and given the name above all names. We are astonished at Jesus, at His suffering, at His victorious resurrection and ascension, at His humiliation turned to glory, and that all of this is for us and our salvation. *O Lord, we are astonished at all that Your love has done for us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-8: He is not here!

It is hard to lose a dead body. They normally stay right where you put them. But Jesus is not a dead body; He is not a corpse. He is risen! He has left the grave behind. He has burst the bonds of death, and not just for Himself, but for you. Just as sure as His crucifixion conquered sin, so His resurrection conquered death. This is why the angel tells the women, "Do not be afraid." The fear of death is ended. The threat of God's judgment is gone. Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison. We now rejoice with gladness: Christ will end all sadness. Halleluia! *We praise and thank You, Lord Jesus, that You rose on the third day, and that You have brought life and immortality to light through Your Gospel. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-12: Born Again to a Living Hope

The resurrection of Jesus, like everything our Lord has accomplished, is for us. Peter writes that God the Father "has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1:3). Our first birth was to dying despair. We inherited from Adam sin, death, guilt, shame, and a sure condemnation, God's temporal and eternal punishment. But when Jesus rose up out of the grave He caused us to be born again: sin forgiven, wrath appeased, shame covered, guilt absolved, death defeated, the devil disarmed, and despair makes way for the sure hope of our inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled, that will not fade away, waiting in heaven for us. *O God our Father, we thank You for the living hope of our new life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 113: Raised to Raise

This Psalm rejoices that our God is the One who raises up the lowly. "He raises the poor from the dust." How much more should we rejoice that He becomes poor, that He becomes dust, that He Himself is made lowly, needy, weak. He suffers, is rejected and beaten and killed. He sleeps the sleep of death, and then wakes to the resurrection of life immortal. He makes Himself lowly, and then raises Himself from the dust. Jesus, now, is the High Priest who can sympathize with us in our weaknesses because He shared them. He walks with us through the valley of death because He has tasted death. Praise the LORD, O servants of the LORD, for there is none like Him! *We praise You, O LORD, that You were raised to life, and that You will raise us to Yourself. Amen.*

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