

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 40:20, Psalm 66:1, 17, 19-20**
 With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth. Alle- | luia.*
 The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob! Alle- | luia.
 Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!*
 Sing out the honor | of His name.
 I cried to Him | with my mouth,*
 and He was extolled | with my tongue.
 Certainly God has | heard me;*
 He has attended to the voice | of my prayer.
 Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,*
 nor His mer- | cy from me!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 55:6**
 “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, the Giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 **Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above**
 TLH 458, LSB 766
 Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Our Father, Thou in heaven above,
 Who biddest us to dwell in love,
 As brethren of one family,
 To cry in every need to Thee,
 Teach us no thoughtless word to say,
 But from our inmost heart to pray.</p> <p>2. Thy name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,
 In purity to keep Thy Word,
 That to the glory of thy name
 We walk before Thee free from blame.
 Let no false doctrine us pervert;
 All poor, deluded souls convert.</p> | <p>8. From evil, Lord, deliver us:
 The times and days are perilous.
 Redeem us from eternal death,
 And when we yield our dying breath,
 Console us, grant us calm release,
 And take our souls to Thee in peace.</p> <p>9. Amen, that is, So shall it be.
 Confirm our faith and hope in Thee
 That we may doubt not, but believe
 What here we ask we shall receive,
 Thus in Thy name and at Thy word
 We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!
 Amen.</p> |
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“He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God”

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God

This week we are reminded of the tremendous privilege we have in Christ Jesus to pray to our Heavenly Father. As beloved children of God in Christ Jesus, we have direct access to our Heavenly Father and can “with all boldness and confidence... ask Him as dear children ask their dear father” (Luther, SC, III, 1). Not only does the Lord give us confidence to pray in light of the victory of His cross and resurrection, but He has also given us the Holy Spirit to help, direct and aid us in our prayers. Finally, our Lord promises us that when we pray in His name the Father will always hear us (Jn. 16:23) and attend to the voice of our prayers (Ps. 66:19).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:23-30 “In Jesus’ Name”

There will be a day when we no longer ask for anything. Until that day, we ask for everything. We pray. The promise Jesus gives is that the Father listens. The Father loves us because we have loved and believed in Christ His Son, Who came into this world at His incarnation and has gone to Him as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is through Jesus, then, that we ask confidently, that is, pray to the Father. The Name of Jesus is the Name of salvation and life. It is the Name of confidence, for by this Name we are saved. *Father, hear me for the sake of Jesus, Your Son, my Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 “Blessed Are Those Who Dwell in the Lord’s House”

Jealousy is usually a sinful trait when it manifests in our lives. Here however, the psalmist is jealous of the birds who get to make their home in the courts of the LORD’s house. Lucky birds! The yearning to be in the LORD’s house is a yearning for God Himself; to be in the place where God dwells and gives His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. The psalmist knows that as he and God’s people travel through the “Valley of Baca,” literally the valley of weeping, their refuge and strength is the LORD of hosts (v. 6). The closer they are to the LORD’s temple, the LORD’s dwelling place, the stronger they are in faith going “from strength to strength” (v. 7). *O Lord, blessed are those who dwell in Your house and trust in You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:22-27 “Be Doers?”

The Pope’s church wants your conscience tied up in knots over this passage, wondering whether faith is enough to justify or if something else needs to be added. Heaven forbid! St. James speaks about sanctification, our growth in holiness on this earth, not the heavenly righteousness promised by God’s Word and received by faith alone. Should Christians be doers of the Word, exercising their faith in this world by prayer and good works? Of course! Any Christian who insists that they don’t need to obey the Ten Commandments betrays their liberty to live God-pleasing lives. Therefore, be certain of your salvation for Christ’s sake. Also, be bold in visiting the afflicted and keeping yourself unstained from the world. *Have mercy, O Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:11-14 “The LORD’s Plans for You in Jesus”

Without the LORD there is no future, no hope, no nothing! But with the LORD and His covenant love there is always hope and always a future! This is the prophet’s promise to God’s people living in exilic hopelessness. The LORD will use the exile to bring His people back to Him through repentance and faith. Then He will gather and restore them again to Himself. This is His plan for the exiles. This is also His plan for you. Repentance and faith is always the order of the day. We may call upon the LORD because He has called us by name in the waters of Holy Baptism. You are His and He will continue to call, seek, find and gather you whom He has restored in Christ Jesus. *Lord Jesus, You alone are my hope, my present, and my future. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:14-20 “The Ascension of Our Lord”

We remember the Lord’s ascension today. Mark includes this great comment, however, that as the apostles preached, it was the Lord—not them—Who worked with them and confirmed their message. Ascension is not the feast of our Lord’s absence from us; it is the celebration of His great coronation and exaltation at the right hand of God’s majesty. Christ, risen as a man, is elevated to authority with the Father. As a result, He is able to be with His Church in all places. His presence is not seen as it was in Galilee; it is heard in His Word and tasted in His Supper. *Ascended Lord, rule Your Church! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:24-28 “The Good Kind of Groaning”

Of course you don’t know what or how to pray. Who knows what is best but God? What a comfort, then, that the Holy Spirit—Who has access to the inner council of the Holy Trinity—intercedes for us and prays always according to God’s perfect will! This gives us courage to offer our prayers, weak as they may be. It gives us confidence that we may add “Amen” to them, since the Spirit prays far deeper than even our best words and efforts. And we found it on this will, which is by no means hidden even if it remains mysterious to us: He wills our good. *Lord, hear my prayers in the Spirit for my good. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124 Our Help is in the Name of the Lord

Many of us know by heart and confess weekly the last line of this psalm. We know, like David, that our help comes from the Lord, the Creator of all things and the great Redeemer and Rescuer of His people. Without the Lord “on our side” we would be utterly lost and eternally condemned. We wouldn’t just have to fear our enemies, we would have to fear God as our greatest enemy! But since God in His great love has reconciled His enemies to Himself through the death and resurrection Christ, we may with St. Paul say “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:32). Or as David put it, “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Ps. 118:6). *O Lord, grant that we would find our help and salvation in You alone. Amen.*

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