



“He Ascended to Bless His People”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:7-9, 1, 11-12**
 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alle- | luia.*
 Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alle- |
 luia.
 The Lord is my light and my sal- | vation;*
 whom | shall I fear?
 The Lord is the strength | of my life;*
 of whom shall I | be afraid?
 Teach me Your | way, O Lord,*
 do not deliver me to the will of my adver- | saries;
 for false witnesses have risen a- | gainst me,*
 and such as breathe out | violence.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Romans 8:31**
 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Almighty, everlasting God, cause us always to have a devout will toward You and to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; 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 **We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend** TLH 223
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| <p>1. We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend, That Thou didst into heaven ascend. O blessed Savior, bid us live And strength to soul and body give. Hallelujah!</p> | <p>4. We therefore heartily rejoice And sing His praise with cheerful voice; He captive led captivity, From bitter death He set us free. Hallelujah!</p> |
| <p>2. Ascended to His throne on high, Hid from our sight, yet always nigh; He rules and reigns at God's right hand And has all power at His command. Hallelujah!</p> | <p>5. Through Him we heirs of heaven are made; O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid That we may firmly trust in Thee And through Thee live eternally. Hallelujah!</p> |

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 Ascended to Bless His People

This week as we prepare for Pentecost, we see the blessings that God gives His people. In particular, we think about the gift of the Spirit. In the midst of this blessing, we are also reminded of the fearful nature of the world that we live in. There is much for us to fear. Yet Scripture makes it clear that the things we would fear belong under His authority and are bound by His will. When we stand justified before God, there is nothing more for us to fear from this world. Thanks be to God that His Spirit dwells in us and points us always to Jesus, Who is our comforter and redeemer!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 The Weight of the Spirit

Jesus never promises that our lives will be perfect. In fact, He tells us that the world will hate us. But in this text, Jesus takes it one step further. He says that the hour is coming when Christians will be killed by those who think they are doing God's work. That's frightening stuff. We would rather not have that kind of suffering. And yet, Jesus warns us so that it is not a surprise. What's more, we receive something far greater in exchange for safety. We receive the Holy Spirit. We receive the Spirit of truth Who bears witness about Jesus. We receive the Spirit Who grants us faith and thereby gives us salvation. Because we have this salvation, eternal life is ours and death is not something for us to fear, no matter where it comes from. *O Lord, I thank You for the gift of the Spirit Who has given me life. Be with me that I may not fear this dark world, for You are with me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93 – The Praise of the Fearful Flood

This Psalm directs us to the majesty of God, which is a common theme in the Psalms. But today, we see God's majesty in comparison to something that is truly frightening, flood waters. Floods are terrifying in their power. And yet, their power testifies to God's greater might. Indeed, the all-consuming flood during Noah's time is only a glimpse of what God can do. Thanks be to God that all His power is wielded on your behalf. God is mighty in weakness. He gave His Son into the weakness of death to redeem you. Even through fire, flood, death, or illness, God's might is exercised for your good because He does not forsake His own. *Almighty God, thank You for Your presence with me. Be with me today and always. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 – The Rushing Wind

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be in that room with the Apostles? The sound of the wind was enough to draw out a huge crowd. There was fire flying around and undoubtedly great confusion. It would have been terrifying, much like the floodwaters we read about yesterday. And yet, through all of this, the Lord is with you. Indeed, He is working through these things for the good of His people just as He is always working for your good as well. In Jesus, we find rest and not fear even in fearful times. *Almighty Lord, have mercy on me in my times of fear and grant me the comfort that You know I need. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 – The Blessings of the Spirit

There is great comfort in these divine promises. More, these are promises for you! He has sprinkled you clean in the waters of Baptism. He has given you His Spirit Who grants you new life, an eternal life which belongs to you right now! This is not only something to look forward to, but it is yours now by faith and our hope looks forward to seeing it in fullness. Your God has given you a heart that is not hardened like Pharaoh's, but a heart that is ready to bear his merciful presence by faith. Even though we live in a frightful time, these promises bring us comfort and assurance that our God's mercy rests upon us. *Almighty God, You have given me many blessings. Grant me Your comfort and give me assurance of Your mercy toward me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26 – The Unity of the Spirit

Jesus prayed this on the night before He was crucified. He prayed for you. He prayed for you and all believers when He is talking about those who have been given to Him by the Father. And Jesus prays that His people would be united in love for one another and in His love. This is accomplished through the work of the Spirit Who brings us together into the Church, the body of Christ on earth. It is truly a wonderful thing to ponder that not only did Jesus pray for you before He went to the cross, but that His prayer was answered and the blessing that you have today is the result of Jesus praying for you! *Almighty Lord, thank You for receiving the prayer of Your Son Who even now intercedes for me. Help me also to come to You in faithful prayer. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29-39 – If God is For Us

God has called you to be His own dear child. He sent His Son to redeem and rescue you from sin and hell. He has given you His Spirit so that you would have faith and life in His Name. God is for us. Even though we began this week reflecting on God's presence in our lives in the midst of all kinds of scary things, we see that there is nothing to truly fear in this world. We have a Lord who suffered the death and hell we deserved to forgive our sins. He fully intended to do this for you from before the foundation of the world! Your salvation was part of God's plan from the moment that He first spoke creation into existence. That is the kind of love God has for you. *O Lord, Your love for me is so great. I desire to meditate on Your blessings daily. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97 – The Fear of the Lord is Wise

As we end this week, we see yet another example of things that are frightening. Clouds and thick darkness are words used to describe God's judgment. Lighting and fire cause devastation. And yet, even these powerful and fearful things serve God's righteousness and glory. The same God has given you His Spirit and has promised you so underserved mercy for Christ's sake. Yes, it is wise for us to fear our God in His power, but we see that if we trust in him for Christ's sake, there is no judgement, death, or hell. He holds all these in subjection. Thanks be to God that we are on His side! *Almighty God, when I fear You, I need fear nothing else. Help me to rightly see You and worship You as You are. Amen.*

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