

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 John 15:26**

[Jesus said,] “But when the Helper comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me.”

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

Unknown



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!

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!

4. We therefore heartily rejoice  
And sing His praise with cheerful voice;  
He captive led captivity,  
From bitter death He set us free.  
Hallelujah!

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!



**“He Ascended to Bless His People”**

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**

Being the last week of Easter, it's fitting that we find our theme from a line in Paul Gerhardt's *Awake My Heart with Gladness* (LSB 467:6). The theme of the stanza is that through faith in Jesus He leads us through death, sin, pain, and hell, and finally into the joys of heaven. As stanza 7 puts it, on the gates of heaven is written: "Who there My cross has shared / Finds here a crown prepared; / Who there with Me has died / Shall here be glorified." So says Jesus even now as we bear our cross and follow Him from this life to the next. If we will ascend to where Christ has gone, we can expect the same treatment that He received on His way there. But He gives us His Holy Spirit Who bears witness with our spirits that our passage is safe and certain, since we have already passed with Jesus through the waters of our Baptism and became His brethren.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 Life-Giving Spirit**

Wherever Jesus is preached, wherever He is proclaimed as Lord and God Who takes away the sins of the world by His death and resurrection, wherever this forgiveness is proclaimed and received by faith, there is the work of the Holy Spirit. In the readings for these last few Sundays, all from John 15 and 16, Jesus has been preparing His Church to recognize Him in a new way - through the preaching of the gospel. "But when the Helper comes...He will testify of Me." (vs. 26). Is your conscience burdened by sin and by the crosses of this life? Do you want the comfort and consolation of the Holy Spirit? Then listen to preaching.

Read your scriptures. There the Holy Spirit has been promised to you.

*Come, Holy Ghost creator blest! Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93 The Lord Reigns**

Our Lord reigns from the right hand of God, ordering all things in heaven and on earth for our good. Even though the Church may be battered about by the winds and the waves of this world, God is still in control of all things. From His throne, God pronounces trustworthy decrees that cannot be overcome by the chaotic forces that seem to rule the day around us. Through the Word, the Spirit points us to the God Who, by His Word, stills storms, cancels sins, and casts out the power of the devil. Through this Word, God clothes us in His holiness and thus assures us a place in His kingdom forevermore. *Heavenly Father, hide me in the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who do me violence. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 With Tongues of Fire**

Three theological themes converge in this, the traditional Epistle reading for the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost in the Old Testament was the harvest festival, a thanksgiving to the Lord of the harvest for daily bread (Ex 23:16). In later Judaism it was also celebrated as the day of the giving of the Law on Sinai. And here in Acts 2 Pentecost becomes the day that the Holy Spirit descended in fullest measure, with tongues of fire to preach the Gospel to all nations. So you, O Christian, are part of God's harvest by faith, a recipient of the Word of God from above, and the object of the Spirit's fire every time you behold the mighty works of Christ. *Come, holy Fire, comfort true, Grant us the will Your work to do / And in Your service to abide (LSB 497.3). Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 A New Heart**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." The Lord has sprinkled you with the clean water of Holy Baptism. In that sprinkling, He has washed away all uncleanness and He has taken from you all idols; He alone is your God! In Baptism, the Lord takes your heart of stone and gives you a clean heart, a heart of flesh. And He places His own Spirit within you to guide you all the days of your life. By this washing, you are a new creation, created and redeemed by Jesus. *Lord, thank You for washing me and making me clean, for making me a new creation, redeemed and holy. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26 Jesus Prays for Us**

Christians find great comfort in the prayers of their fellow believers. How much more comfort should we find in the prayers which our Lord Jesus offers for us! He prays that we would have unity, not just with one another but with Him and the Father. He prays that the world would believe that He is the Son of God. He prays finally that we would be with Him where He is and see His glory. All these prayers are answered through the gift of God's Word, by which His Name is made known for our salvation. *Almighty God, grant to Your Church unity of faith, add to the number of those who are being saved, and finally bring us to our heavenly home. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29-39 He Intercedes for Us**

The passage provides much comfort for God's children: we have nothing to fear. When we look at our sinful lives, we of course have much to fear—not from the elements, but from He who created the heavens and the earth. The great comfort of this passage is not simply that we have nothing in all creation to fear, but that the Son of God, Who died and was raised by God, intercedes for us in heaven. He ascended to heaven that He might stand as the mediator between the wrath of God and sinful humanity. Tribulation and persecution and famine etc. might come, but they cannot harm us. God's Son intercedes for us. *Forgiving Father, we praise You for not looking at our sin, but through Christ Jesus, Who for our sake died and was raised. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97 The Foundation of God's Throne**

God's unfettered glory is hidden from our mortal eyes. Sinners cannot look upon Holy God and live. But, as the psalmist reminds us, God's throne is founded upon righteousness and justice. These things are revealed to us out of the thick darkness and clouds as God reveals to us His true nature and disposition toward us in the Crucified Christ. There, God pours out the just condemnation for our sin and wins for us the only righteousness that can avail before Him. Thus we can rejoice in God's righteous judgments, for in Christ, we have already passed through the judgment into life. *Heavenly Father, preserve us from the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, so that we may rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.*

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