

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 Psalm 27:8

“You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

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

This Sunday marks a unique time in the life of Jesus' disciples. Three days earlier they saw their beloved Lord ascend into heaven, a cloud having taken Him out of their sight, but they had not yet received power when the Holy Spirit would come upon them, as Christ had promised. That would come in a week's time on Pentecost. On this Sunday, the disciples waited. We wait too. We live in the time between our Lord's ascension and His coming again in glory. As we wait for the certain promise of His return to be fulfilled, we cry out, "Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!" (Ps. 27:7) For Jesus' sake, the Father is gracious to us and hears our prayers as He gives us His Holy Spirit to strengthen and preserve us in the one true faith unto everlasting life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 "The Spirit Bears Witness"

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus promised His apostles that they would bear witness, just as the Holy Spirit whom He would send them would bear witness. The Spirit continues to bear witness through the apostles in His inspired Word which they committed to writing: the Holy Scriptures. Therefore the promise of the Spirit's witness is not just for the apostles long ago, but for you today. When you hear and read the Scriptures breathed out by God, the Spirit of Truth helps you to remain steadfast in the time of trial. *Father, thank You for sending us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who bears witness to Your Son in Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93 "The Lord Reigns Forever"

There is nothing stronger than the Lord. Though the floods may lift up their roaring, that is, though all God's enemies may oppose Him and His throne, in the end they accomplish nothing. For the Lord on high is mighty. He is also Love. Therefore He wills to use His might to save you. He does this not through earthly strength, but through His very trustworthy decrees: the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, the almighty Son of God, who suffered in great weakness to deliver you from death and make you an heir of His everlasting kingdom. *O Lord, You alone are Most High over all the earth. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 "The Promise of the Helper"

As we heard at the beginning of the week, Jesus promised to send His disciples the Holy Spirit. This was a promise He made several times before and after His death and resurrection. On Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise. He sent the Spirit upon His disciples to do exactly what He promised: to bear witness. It's not for nothing that His coming was marked with tongues of fire, for in the preached Word men from every nation under heaven heard (and still hear today!) in their own tongues the mighty works of God. *Lord Jesus, create and strengthen faith in all who hear Your Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 "The Clean Water of Baptism"

Through the apostle Peter, the Holy Spirit teaches that Baptism is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a good conscience. (1 Peter 3:21) The uncleanness from which God's clean water cleanses us are not mud and dirt and grime, but idolatry, sin, and unbelief. Likewise the cleansing He works through this water is not smooth skin and a fresh smell, but a new heart and a new spirit to follow His Word. What else could baptismal water be but a divine washing? *Thank you, Father, for the abundant blessings bestowed upon us in Holy Baptism. 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 "I Am Sure"

Jesus warned that Christians would face severe opposition. But if God is for us, who can be against us? No matter what we face in this fallen world, we have absolute confidence in God's abiding protection and ultimate deliverance. This certainty comes not from ourselves or our works, but from God—namely, that He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all on the cross. Since He has died for us, we can be sure that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Heavenly Father, in Your crucified and risen Son we are sure that nothing will separate us from Your love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97 "We Rejoice Because the Lord Reigns"

God's everlasting reign is not joyfully received by all. Those who reject Him in unbelief will be put to shame. They will wail when they see Jesus coming with the clouds on the Last Day, for on that day fire will burn all of God's adversaries. But we Christians will straighten up and raise our heads when we see these things take place, because our redemption is drawing near. We who are children of Zion by faith will rejoice and be glad because of God's judgments, for He has reckoned us righteous by His grace alone for Jesus' sake. *Glory to You, O Lord, for You are most high over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. Amen.*

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