

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 heavenly Father, as You gladden our hearts again to celebrate the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, mercifully bestow on us the joy to receive Him as our Redeemer and so welcome Him when He comes again to be our judge; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 103

Martin Luther



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.

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.

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.

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.



“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 d Prayer in Jesus' Name

Our Lord's final teaching to His disciples before He endures the cross is chock-full of wonderful promises. Those who are His have direct and complete access to His Heavenly Father through the privilege of prayer; “Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you” (v. 23). No, this is not a promise that God will give us whatever our hearts desire. He loves us too much to grant you and me everything we want or think we need. This is a promise that praying in Jesus' name, in His Spirit and manner, that the will of God will be done in our lives. Of ourselves, God owes us nothing, but in Christ He desires to give us every good and needful gift. *O Lord, thank You for the gift and privilege of prayer in Jesus name. 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 Blessed are Those Who Hear and Keep God's Word

At the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He says that everyone who hears His words and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock (Matt. 7:24). On the other hand, everyone who hears His words and does not do them is like a fool who built his house on the sand (Matt. 7:26). Those who hear Jesus' words and do them do so because His words have created saving faith in them. Those who trust and believe Jesus' words to be “the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68b) produce the fruits of faith as they are connected to Him (Jn. 15:5). James' admonition to be “doers” and “hearers” of the Word can be understood in this light. Blessed “are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Lk. 11:28). *O Lord, help us to hear Your Word and keep it. 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 He Sat Down at The Father's Right Hand - The Ascension of Our Lord

Those whose vocations are in the field of physical and manual labor usually stand for most, if not all, of the day. When they are able to sit down, this is an indication that their work is done and the work day is over. When Jesus was done with His work of redemption He returned to His rightful place at the Father's right hand and sat down. On this day, The Ascension of our Lord, we rejoice that Christ's redeeming work for us is done, 100% complete - nothing more needs to be done ever! We also rejoice that our Lord Jesus is our Great High Priest Who daily intercedes for us in prayer before His Heavenly Father. *Lord Jesus, thank You for completing the work of our salvation and for being our Great High Priest. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:24-28 The Holy Spirit Intercedes for Us

Saint Paul is right when he says that “we do not pray as we ought” (v. 26). Most of us do not pray as often as we should and when we do pray, we don't always know how or for what to pray. Our weak human nature indeed hinders our prayers. Fear not, take heart, friends in Jesus, for the Lord God has given you His Spirit in Holy Baptism and through His Word, the Spirit gives strength and voice to our prayers, guiding and directing us to pray “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done” (Matt. 6:10). By ourselves, we can't do much of anything good (Jn. 15:5), much less pray, but the Spirit of God intercedes praying with us and for us. *Thank You, O Lord for giving us Your Spirit to guide and direct our prayers. 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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