

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Prayer of Azariah 1:4, 7, 20, 19; Psalm 48:1, 9-11

The Lord is righteous in all His / works toward us,*
for we have not obeyed His com- / mandments.
Glorify Your / Name, O Lord:*
and deal with us according to Your great / mercy.
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
in the midst of Your / temple.
According to Your / name, O God,*
so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth;
Your right hand is full of / righteousness.*
Let Mount Zion rejoice, Because of Your / judgments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 57:1

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction
pass by.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant, we implore You, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and
peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a
quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness

TLH 305, LSB 636
Johann Franck



1. Soul, adorn thyself with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto Him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous supper founded.
High o'er all the heavens He reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

8. Lord, by love and mercy driven
Thou hast left Thy throne in heaven
On the cross for us to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Thy blood in sadness.
By this blood, redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise Thee with thanksgiving.

7. Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring, --
At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Thy glory, given.



“Resisting the Flesh at Home in the World”

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of October 22-28, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Flesh at Home in the World

The Gospel readings this week gives us two difficult parables of judgment. This warning keeps us from doing, saying, and believing things that will condemn us. In the parables of Matthew 21 Jesus is calling the Pharisees to repent of their pride, murderous intention, and to rejoice in the kingdom of God's kindness and mercy. Some of the Pharisees did repent (see Acts 6:7) and were delivered. This is the will of God in Christ for us, that Jesus would dwell with us according to His great kindness and love.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:1-14: A Necessary Garment

What a roller coaster. There's a wedding but the guests refuse to come. The servants are murdered and the Lord judges against those who were invited. Then the wedding is full, but there is the guest without his garment thrown into outer darkness. It's a lot to take in. Israel is the invited guest. The servants are the prophets, rejected and abused. The church is the strange guests. We only fit in at this feast because of the wedding garments provided by the king. This garment is the robe of Christ's righteousness made white by the Lamb's blood (Revelation 7:14) given to us in baptism (Galatians 3:26). Clothed in these robes we are not ashamed to stand before the LORD. *O Lord, wrap us tightly in the robe of Christ's righteousness. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, twentieth part (RESH v153-160): The Entirety of Your Word

The Lord's Word is our treasure, our joy our wisdom, our light. And each word of the Scriptures is a gift. This is what David prays in the last verse of our reading. "The *entirety* of Your Word is true." We don't have to hunt and peck around God's Word to find the parts that are true. We don't have to sort out which chapters to believe and which promises to trust. We don't believe that the Bible is a mixture of God's Words and man's words. No. The entirety of His Word is true, and even more, the entirety of His word is *truth*. Our faith rests on the trustworthiness of God who has spoken to us of His kindness and love through His word. *Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:15-21: Walking in Wisdom: Giving Thanks

By the power of the Spirit the Christian "gives thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." More than gratitude, when sees the goodness of the gift, the Christian is thankful. We recognize the goodness of the gift. We know that no matter what comes our way, God is our friend, Jesus is our Savior, and all things are working together for the good of those who love God. Thankfulness is a vital part of our Spiritual wisdom. We know that the most important things in life are the things the Lord has already accomplished for us, and our hearts sing with joy for His lovingkindness. *O Lord, fill us with Your Spirit, fill our hearts and minds with thanks. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 65:1, 2: The LORD has Stretched Out His Hand

There was always a danger in Jerusalem that the people there thought the LORD only loved them. "No," the LORD preaches. I'm seeking people who didn't ask for Me. I say "Here I am" to a nation not called by My name. The Maker of this world is the Redeemer of the world. He is after all people, even you. And for you: I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people." Because we fail the Lord stretches out His hand to help us up. Because we're being attacked, He stretches out His hands to fight and defend us. Most importantly, because we are dying sinners, He stretches out His hands to the nails of the cross, and saves us. *Thank You, O LORD, for seeking and finding me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:28-44: Of Love for the Pharisees

We often hear how Jesus loved the sinners and distained the Pharisees. This is wrong. Jesus loves the Pharisees. He sees the danger they face, the danger of their pride and their impending judgment. He comes after them with these parables, with this severe preaching of the law to try to win their hearts and rescue them. "Look at the tenants," Jesus says, "their foolishness, the insanity that murdering the son would gain the inheritance." Jesus is calling them to their senses, calling them to repentance. "If the Stone falls on you you will be crushed. The broken and contrite spirit the Lord will not despise." This is also for us. The Lord casts down the haughty, but rescues those of humble faith. *Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 11:25-32: Only and All for Mercy

Salvation is a matter of God's mercy. It is a gift, completely unearned. This was a problem for the Pharisees, and for all of us who have a little Pharisee living in our hearts. We think we are good enough, that our works are deserving of God's gifts, that we have earned something from God. The Lord won't have it. Salvation is not, will not, and cannot be earned. The Lord has committed all to disobedience (that's what verse 32 says), consigned all to guilt, declared all as law-breakers, to make sure that no one has a claim on salvation. Why? The Lord wants grace alone to save. "God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all." His mercy is on you. *I thank You, My heavenly Father, for Your gift of life and salvation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 57: God's Goodness is Our Salvation

Mercy. Steadfast love. Lovingkindness. David, hiding in the cave, struggles to contain his awe and joy in the Lord's goodness. Why? Because the Lord is not simply good in Himself. He is good for us! His goodness is our salvation. His mercy is our hope. His love is our deliverance. His wings are our hiding place. His kindness is our life. His power is our defense. His wisdom is our faith. His glory is our longing. His Word is our treasure. His steadfastness is our confidence. His Name is our prayer. *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You. Amen.*

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