PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  Psalm 68:5-6, 35, 1, 3, 7, 10, 19

God is in His holy habitation.*
He gives a home to the desolate.
The God of Israel is He who gives strength* and power to His people.
Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered:* let those also who hate Him flee before Him.
But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice before God:* yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

God is in His holy habitation.*
He gives a home to the desolate.
The God of Israel is He who gives strength* and power to His people.
Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered:* let those also who hate Him flee before Him.
But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice before God:* yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.
O God, when you went out before Your people,* you, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor.
Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits,* the God of our salvation!

And [Jesus] said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning: 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 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.
THEM OF THE WEEK: Believing Humility
What is humility other than recognizing who we are under God? Humility is seen in one like the tax collector who prays for mercy. Humility is seen in one like the prostitute who washes Jesus’ feet with her hair. Humility is seen in an old David who understands that nothing he has came from him, but it is all the work of the Lord. Humility is nothing other than a saint who knows that he is a sinner, but has been made to be a saint through the work of Jesus and Him alone.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14—Which One Are You?
So which one is it? Are you the Pharisee or the tax collector? Is your prayer one of haughtiness and self-justification or is it like one who knows he shouldn’t be asking for what he is asking? The truth is, if you are reading this, then you are probably both. That is the way of the saint/sinner person we all are. Dear Sinner, don’t seek to justify yourself. Don’t presume to be better off than the tax collector because of the work of the Lord. Humility is nothing other than a saint who knows that he is a sinner, but has been made to be a saint through the work of Jesus and Him alone.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:81-88 (KAPH)—Seemingly Forgotten By Your Lord
The Psalmist “psalms” for all of us. He writes the words that we all want to say but are too scared to utter. “When will you comfort me?” It is an honest question with no answer that will satisfy in the moment, not to the point where everything is hunky-dory. But His steadfast love gives us life whether we know it or not. His commandments are sure and His statutes are steadfast, even in the midst of persecution. Your God promises to you salvation. It is yours. Your God preserves and saves and protects in simple ways that proclaim His excellence. A Word spoken and splashed and given and shed: Jesus spoken and splashed and given and shed. That is your promise. Jesus for you, even when it doesn’t seem like it. In Your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of Your mouth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10—Unless You Believed In Vain
Christ is risen from the dead! If He is not then we should be pitied more than anyone else, for our faith is a sham and we are still dead in our trespasses. But Christ is risen, just like He said, just like all of Scripture. Paul is a witness! Peter too. In fact, over 500 people saw the risen Christ and testified to the holes in His hands and the gash in His side, even as He stood there speaking for forgiveness to them. The Gospel preached is not just the cross, but the empty tomb as well. Remember that well, for the cross is empty if the tomb is not. But there is no dead Jesus in the ground. Instead, He is ascended to the right hand of the Father. He has given us His Spirit as a guarantee. He has established His Church through men like Paul and Cephas. It is this faith in which we stand. Lord, may we stand in Your Gospel and thus be saved. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:21-29—Why Does David Sing This?
Old man David sings this song of deliverance. He sings this song after his battle with the Philistines: in which a miracle was given and victory was snatched from the mouths of giants. But the words that he sings are not about himself, they can’t be. He is not blameless. He has not kept the commandments of God pure. He is not free from guilt. Yes, he is the king, but the kingdom is not fulfilled in him. There is another, someone still to come, yet promised from the Fall. Jesus is the fulfillment of the kingdom because He is the guiltless, righteous, pure, and blameless one. David, all Israel and Judah and Solomon, all the kings and prophets pointed to Christ. Jesus is the king who reigns on high, because He first sat on the throne of the cross to make you as guiltless and righteous and pure and blameless as Him. Be my lamp, O Lord, and lighten my darkness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50—Simon, the Pharisee, and the Sinful Woman
Which one is worse: Simon or the woman? Both! They are both “worse.” But we don’t see it like that. We see it like Simon, who exclaims, “What sort of a prophet can’t tell a prostitute when He sees her?!” But Jesus knows who she is, knows who Simon the Pharisee is, knows who you are. Don’t try to hide it behind a smile. Your sins are forgiven. The difference between the woman and Simon is that the woman knows who she is. (May we all be so crushed by the Law). And so, her sins are forgiven. Not because her faith is greater than Simon, but because her faith is in the only One that can forgive sins. Simon trusts in himself. There is no forgiveness there. This sinful woman trusts in Jesus. Better for her, we know what that gets her. Jesus, may we all hear Your words, “Your sins are forgiven.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:4-18—Christ Is The End Of The Law
The end of the Law?!!! Does that mean, then, that we are free to live like heathens? Of course not! Christ is the end of the Law unto righteousness. Which means, you, Christian, don’t look to Moses and the Law to be justified. That won’t cut it. The Law could never save and it still can’t. Do you want to be saved? Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord. That is, believe that He is Lord over even the Law. Believe that He has fulfilled it, not you. Believe that He creeds it for His good works. Believe that He takes your sin upon Himself and makes it His own. Believe that all sin, Satan, and death too, was nailed to the cross, buried in the grave, never to return victorious. Moses doesn’t say that. But Jesus does. And you do too in faith. That is why you are saved. How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 147—Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord: Because the Lord is Lord of the earth and sky and everything in-between; because He still takes care of His creation and sustains the children that don’t even call Him Father; because He numbers the stars and sends the rain and scatters the hoarfrost; because of all these things, we should give Him praise. But more than all of this, we do not only praise Him for His creation and the good gifts it gives to us. For these creation-gifts are for everyone. But we give Him praise because He heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds. He does this with His Word of the cross and with Jesus on His lips. Praise the Lord! O Jerusalem, for what other nation has He dealt with like this? This gift is yours and for your children. It is Christ. It is Jesus. It is His cross and His empty tomb. And it is yours. Praise the Lord! Amen.