

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

God is in His holy habi- / tation.*
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 be- / fore Him.
But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice be- / fore God;*
yes, let them rejoice ex- / ceedingly.
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 sal- / vation!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 7:48
And [Jesus] said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Almighty and everlasting God, who are always more ready to hear than we to pray and give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 TLH 329, LSB 607
From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee Martin Luther



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| <p>1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
My prayer let come before Thee.
If Thou rememberest each misdeed,
If Thou should have its rightful meed,
Who may abide Thy presence?</p> <p>2. Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.</p> | <p>Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.</p> <p>3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.</p> |
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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 August 12-28, 2018

THEME 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 come 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.

SUN

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 works that you do. You are not; your works are dead and they make you even deader than they are. Dear Saint, go before your Lord, knowing that you are forgiven and justified for the sake of Christ and not for anything that you have done or not done, accomplished or not accomplished, fasted, tithed, or neither. Be justified! Not by your own works, but be justified by Christ's works for you. *God, be merciful to me, a sinner! Amen.*

MON

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 to God 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 excellencies. 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.*

TUE

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 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.*

WED

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.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50—Simon, the Pharisees, 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 fancy house and clean living. Your God knows the sinner you are. 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.*

FRI

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 credits you 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.*

SAT

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 Him, 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.*

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