

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 18:13
“God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

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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| 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 each should have its rightful meed,
Who may abide Thy presence? | Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy. |
| 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. | 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. |



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 27-September 2, 2017

THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Humility

The righteousness of God is accomplished not by our achievements, but by Christ's. His perfect life according to God's command satisfies the Law. His innocent death in substitution for us also satisfies what our sins deserve. This is credited to all who trust this gift, and they go down to their house justified. This is shown clearly in this week's Gospel. In the readings this week we see the fruits of such repentance and faith in our lives: love for the neighbor, comfort and hope in affliction, a humble spirit, resolve in our confession, and a life of praise to God, our Mediator and Savior.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14—The Righteousness of Faith

The Tax Collector is humble in posture, but bold in faith. He is humble and lowly as it regards himself, but almost demanding of God. "Do this," he says. And "this" is to propitiate and atone for his many sins. He is bold to demand it because God's Word has promised it. The Lord Himself is our righteousness, through Christ's atoning sacrifice. We claim nothing of ourselves, yet we receive and therefore claim everything from Him. This is what it means to be justified by faith. *God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:81-88 (KAPH)—Hold Fast to What is Sure

David resolves to stick with the Word of God, both in its commands and promises. It remains true, though everything else be full of falsehood. Just as the tax collector trusted in the Lord's righteousness alone, surrounded by those who hated him with and without cause, so we must cling to and long for the Lord's salvation, hoping in His Word. Repentance and faith are summed up in this: to cling to God's Word against our own circumstance and thinking. *Lord, comfort me with Your Word and bring deliverance as You have promised. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10—According to the Scriptures

The righteousness of God has been revealed, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. So when St. Paul rehearses the Gospel, he adds, "according to the Scriptures." Christ's death is for our sins, to reconcile us to the Father. His resurrection is public, so that all may see His vindication by the Father. Hold fast to this faith. Stand in it. All who do are saved. *Lord, do not let me confess the Creed in vain, but in faith. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:21-29—Your Righteousness. And Mine.

We are justified by the Lord's righteousness, but this psalm says "my (David's) righteousness." This must be understood according to David's office. The Lord rewards him with victory because David is King, serving according to the Lord's Word and not His own. Thus, we see how incredible it is that David, valiant warrior and leader, is himself looking to the Lord for refuge. In its whole context (v.2-51), we see that the Lord is the actor here. David is saying, "the Lord's Word proves true" (v.31). *Lord, save me by Your righteousness and lead me into Your right ways. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50—Faith that Saves; Love that Witnesses

The stage directions are important. To Simon, Jesus extolls the woman's works. She loves much. Therefore, it is evident that her sins are forgiven. Simon is put to shame by her love. Jesus points to her to show that true love comes from being forgiven, and thus her faith is known in her works. But to the woman, Jesus says none of this. He says, simply, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you." Faith, not love, is credited with salvation and forgiveness. Love is faith's natural, outward fruit. *Lord, make me to treasure Your forgiveness, that my love may be for others only. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:4-18—Ears, Heart, Mouth.

The righteousness of the Law eludes our grasp; in contrast, the righteousness of faith is at hand. Christ comes to us. He is as near as the Word of the Gospel in ear and heart and mouth. The Word is preached, heard, and believed; that faith leads the mouth to confess. This is the message that must go out to all the world: that Christ alone is our righteousness by faith. What a perfect lead in to this Sunday's Gospel, when the Word of Christ will open our ears to hear and our mouths to speak. *Lord, open my ears to hear, my heart to believe, and my mouth to confess. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 147—God Lifts Up the Humble

The Lord's delight is not in the men or what he prizes. It is in those who fear Him and hope in His mercy. This Psalm stands in contrast to the Pharisee's self-aggrandizing prayer. Though jubilant compared with the tax collector's posture, this psalm still harmonizes with his prayer. It is our response also to going to our house justified: Praise and thanksgiving. *Lord, heal my broken heart and lift it up to praise You. Amen.*