PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 47:1-2, 3, 6-8

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!*  
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!  
For the Lord Most High is awesome!*  
He is a great King over all the earth.  
He will subdue the peoples under us,*  
and the nations under our feet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises!*  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing praises with understanding.  
God reigns over the nations;*  
God sits on His holy throne.

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

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 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.

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 Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 103:13
“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.”

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

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and give to us those things that be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
All Depends on Our Possessing

1. All depends on our possessing  
   God’s abundant grace and blessing,  
   Though all earthly wealth depart.  
   He who trusts with faith unshaken  
   In His God is not forsaken  
   And e’er keeps a dauntless heart.

2. He who hitherto hath fed me  
   And to many joys hath led me,  
   Is and ever shall be mine.  
   He who did so gently school me,  
   He who still doth guide and rule me,  
   Will remain my Help divine.

3. When with sorrow I am stricken,  
   Hope my heart anew will quicken,  
   All my longing shall be stilled.  
   To His loving-kindness tender  
   Soul and body I surrender;  
   For in Him alone I build.

TLH 425, LSB 732
Unknown
THEME OF THE WEEK: Submission to the Lord of Compassion

Jesus has compassion on his church. This is great comfort since the saints’ confession of faith results in being rejected by the world. Everything they used to fear, love, and trust is taken away. Their faith could cost them family, friends, homes, livelihoods, and certainly the fellowship of false churches. But rejection in the world doesn’t mean that Jesus forgets and abandons his church. He cares for the saints’ bodies as well as their souls. Jesus will give them daily bread. If their souls need strengthening, he will feed them with his promises. By his compassion he redeems them from sin. By his compassion he continues to give them hope of eternal life.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:1-9 “Miraculous Bread in Desolate Places”

The devil traps our hearts in nets of worry. He says that our faithful confession will cost too much, that it shouldn’t hurt so much, that we ought to be friends and not enemies with the world. He’ll make us afraid of losing everything, but what he won’t say is that it will come at the cost of our souls. Remember that in addition to spiritual goods, the Father gives daily bread in the most desolate moments of life. The Holy Spirit recorded this history of Jesus feeding the 4,000 to teach you this. Just as Jesus was able to provide for those who loved him and his Word, so he’ll provide for you. Jesus died to obtain the Father’s kindness for you. No devil or desolation can take that compassion away. “Give us this day our daily bread.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:49-56 “Remember Your Word”

The Lord promises, “You are righteous for my Son’s sake (Philippians 3:9). He died in your place (John 1:29). He suffered your wrath against your sin (Isaiah 53:5). His righteousness is yours as a gift, by grace (Ephesians 2:8). You are my child (Galatians 4:5). I have called you to be my own in the waters of baptism (Mark 16:16).” These promises are your comfort in affliction. These are the promises that give you life. When wicked men deride you, turn away from neither the promises nor the law. Don’t let their sins justify your own transgressions. Remember the Lord’s name. Remember his promises. He is faithful and the hope of all who trust in Him. “Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:19-23 “Slaves to Impurity and Slaves to Righteousness”

Having been made righteous by faith, our whole manner of life is changed. The old thoughts we used to think are changed to reflect the mind of Christ. We begin to see his creation through his eyes rather than through the old eyes that neither fear God nor trust in him. We treat our neighbor with love rather than with anger and contempt. We uphold parents, authorities, marriages, property, reputations, and learn contentedness with all the gifts God has lavished upon us. This is what St. Paul means by presenting our bodies, our members, as slaves of righteousness leading to sanctification. “Sin leads to death. But, the free gift of God, our rebirth and renewal, leads to eternal life. Grant that I present myself as a slave to righteousness, heavenly Father.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:24-31 “Of More Value Than Sparrows”

It’s enough for Christians to be like Jesus. If our Lord has been called the prince of demons, how can we expect to escape the world’s enmity? Don’t be afraid. No manmade plot, no demonic power, and not even the frailty of your flesh will rob you of the Father’s love. Their schemes are exposed by the light of Jesus’ Word. When the light of the Father’s mercy shines on our enemy’s weapons of sin and death, their traps come to nothing. The world always reacts badly to this. They heap malice upon malice. But the Lord remembers you. If He knows when one of his sparrows fall from the air, how much more does He remember you for whom His Son has died? “Remember me, O Lord, and give me the light of your promises to comfort me.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:8-23 “Through Many Tribulations We Must Enter the Kingdom of God”

Jesus said to Ananias when Paul was first converted, “I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name” (Acts 9:16). In Lystra, Paul saw a cripple who believed the Gospel. To confirm the power of the Word, Paul told the man to stand up and walk. Immediately, this good work is met with near idolatry from the Greeks and hatred from the Jews. He was stoned and left for dead. It’s not a low point. Christ’s power was manifest by his refusal to give up. St. Paul says, “I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Cor. 12:9). In weakness we suffer, but praise God that his power to save by his Word and Faith rests on his strength and not our own. “Strengthen me by your Word, O Lord.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:23-25 “Words that Bless God”

What we say reflects the state of our souls. When we can only speak of our pain, poverty, anger, and shame, then it reveals what we believe about ourselves and the lives God has given us. We fall into the temptation of breaking the 9th and 10th commandments. We should acknowledge suffering when it comes, of course. But we shouldn’t ignore and remain silent to how richly we’ve been blessed in Christ. For his Son’s sake, God fills your mouth with words that praise the mercy poured out upon you in baptism, the absolution, and the Supper of His Son’s body and blood. If you still have trouble, speak to your pastor. Call up a Christian friend. Take comfort when the tell you about Jesus. “Replenish my languishing soul, O Lord.” Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125 “Mount Zion Cannot Be Moved”

The psalm may be interpreted thus: Mt. Zion is the holy Christian church in both Testaments. It is the people of God who are made righteous by hearing the promise of the Savior’s sacrifice for their sin and believing it. On this holy mountain there is stability, strength, and steadfast love from God. His Word builds his walls. His Promises establish the palisades and gates that shut the enemies out. The scepter of wickedness is the devil’s dominion of fear, sin, and death. He has no power on Mount Zion. His scepter is smashed and useless. Jesus reigns over the 9th and 10th commandments. We should acknowledge suffering when it comes, of course. But we shouldn’t ignore and remain silent to how richly we’ve been blessed in Christ. For his Son’s sake, God fills your mouth with words that praise the mercy poured out upon you in baptism, the absolution, and the Supper of His Son’s body and blood. If you still have trouble, speak to your pastor. Call up a Christian friend. Take comfort when the tell you about Jesus. “Replenish my languishing soul, O Lord.” Amen.

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