

“The Lord’s Call to Repentance”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 85:5-6; 18:1-2, 27, 32, 49

The sorrows of Sheol sur- | rounded me;*
 the snares of death con- | fronted me.
 In my distress I called up- | on the Lord,*
 He heard my voice from His | temple.
 I will love You, O | Lord, my strength.*
 The Lord is my rock and my | fortress.
 For You will save the humble | people,*
 but will bring down | haughty looks.
 It is God who arms | me with strength,*
 and makes my way | perfect.
 Therefore I will give thanks to | You, O Lord,*
 and sing praises | to Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 23:5

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Salvation Unto Us Has Come

TLH 377, LBS 555
 Paul Speratus



1. Salvation unto us has come
 By God's free grace and favor;
 Good works cannot avert our doom,
 They help and save us never.
 Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
 Who did for all the world atone;
 He is our one Redeemer.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Thy death is now my life indeed,
 For Thou hast paid my ransom.

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 February 17-23, 2019

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Repentance

God's gifts of Word and Sacrament do what they are supposed to do. The hard part is recognizing that. We cannot by our own reason or strength. The Holy Spirit reveals it to us in the Word and gives the faith to trust this promise. Jesus is exactly where He promises to be: in the preached Word and administered Sacraments. This is why Jesus instituted His Church: so that He might come to you with the comforting promises of the forgiveness of sins. The church is Jesus for you. That's why we gather week after week. We need Jesus, and Jesus is there for us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16 -- Who Skips Payday?

We want justice and fairness. At least, we say we do when in benefits us. The workers in the front of the line were not grumbling about their excess pay. The men in the back were, and we are tempted to do the same, to think that our long lives of Christian good-works have somehow earned our way into God's favor. No, His is a kingdom of grace, only grace. The wages we deserve is death. The free gift is what Jesus gives out, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation won for us by His gracious and merciful death on the cross. *O LORD, pour out Your mercy upon us, given through Your church, and grant us eyes to see and ears to hear You present there for us. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 -- Where to Find the Lord in the Valley

What a beautiful picture. The green grass, the still waters, the watchful Shepherd. We love this one, we should. It comforts us when things are really bad. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is with us. But I'm afraid this Psalm is so popular that most of the people who quote it to try to feel better never quite find the Shepherd and His comfort. They don't know where to look. He's where He promised to be: in the Word and in His house, the church. There He sets a table in the presence of sin, death, and the power of the devil. There His cup runs over, full of the blood of Christ for you. There Law and Gospel is preached. We will dwell with His forever. *O LORD, lead me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake, deliver me from evil, comfort me, and let me dwell in Your house forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 -- Discipline

Discipline won't save you. Only Christ can do that. The Scriptures are clear about this. But still, there is an important place for Christian discipline. A lack of discipline is harmful physically and spiritually to us and to our neighbor. Christ alone saves us and names us heirs to the kingdom, yet failing to fight sinful desire and abandoning discipline caused a lot of harm to Israel. So we measure our desires against the Scriptures, rather than the lusts of the flesh. We practice discipline because sin destroys, and our Lord Jesus has given us over to life, not death. *Heavenly Father, grant us discipline by Your Holy Spirit, that we may strive towards good and reject evil. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10 -- One is Greater than One Hundred

The call of Jeremiah reminds us that God sends preachers. Still! Still pastors are sent to preach His Word of Law and Gospel, "to throw down and to build" (Jeremiah 1:10). There are many reasons we might not want to listen to our pastors. He's a sinner. He tells us what we'd rather not hear. We might prefer the guy who never mentions sin, or the pastor who preaches about us more than Jesus. When God sends a pastor, he preaches Law and Gospel, and God wants us to hear him, to hold preaching and the Word to be sacred. Your pastor doesn't speak his own words, but God's. God speaks through that sinner just for you. Listen.

O Holy Ghost, speak through pastors that they would preach every word You give them to say, and that the people would be gathered in faith to hear. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30 -- God's Gifts Do Stuff

Jesus gives gifts to us. He gives us life, joy, courage, wisdom, peace, and all of this above and beyond His most wonderful gift of the forgiveness of all of our sins. He does not authorize us to keep these gifts to ourselves. He gives to us and through us, to our neighbor. He wants His gifts to spread and grow, not to be buried, which is why the travelling man is so upset to return home and find his talents buried. These gifts are effective and lively as they give life. *O LORD, help us to see the gifts You give us as precious treasures, that we may always use them according to Your will for our good. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-34 -- Don't Just Capitalize the "G," Receive the Resurrection

It's not ok that the "unknown god" stay unknown. Paul doesn't just capitalize the G. He corrects the doctrine. The crowd stays with him while he talks about stone idols. They even seem ok with the idea that they should repent before the Day of Judgment. It's the Resurrection that pushed them over the top. Every religion has laws and doctrines, even the ones with a lowercase g. Every religion has law. Christianity has Gospel: Christ crucified and raised to forgive you your sins and bring you to the resurrection to life eternal. The world stumbles on this truth. We believe and rejoice. *O Risen Lord, fix our eyes upon Your sacrifice and resurrection, and let it always be preached to a world that does not yet know You. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114 Israel was Not Just about Geography

When Israel left Egypt, God promised them their own land. But even before they reached the promised land, God was their God. The sea ran from them! Bread rained for them in the wilderness. Israel dwelt securely in the midst of the Red Sea, pursued by Egyptian chariots, because God was present to be their shelter. Israel dwelt securely in the wilderness because the Lord was their Shepherd. Israel is not geography, it is where God is to save. The church still isn't bound by geography. God has promised to be where His Word is preached truly and His sacraments administered rightly. The map still jumps around as God knits Israel together in Divine Service. *O LORD, knit together Your elect from all tribes and nations, and gather us around Your table at Your church regardless of where we live. Amen.*

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