

“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 23:6**

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

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, LSB 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.

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

Praise the Lord that He doesn't give us what we deserve. The wages of sin, after all, is death. No, the Lord hands His Son over to sin and death for us, so that He might give us life and hope, peace and forgiveness. He delivers us for every evil, and calls us to live before Him in His kingdom, under His protection. He is our Shepherd and our Shield who is struck and beaten to protect us. He uses His might not to destroy us, but to keep us, and all of this is done without any merit or worthiness in me. God be praised!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:1-16: Undeserved Mercy**

"That's not fair!" Surely this is what the workers who labored through the day were thinking. "It's not fair that we worked twelve hours, and they worked one, and we are paid the same." True. It isn't fair. This is the point Jesus is making. The eternal inheritance which He gives to His children is not fair. Our salvation is not a fair payment for the work we've done. If God were to give us what we deserve we would receive eternal death. The wages of sin, after all, is death. Salvation is God's gift, and we have it purely by the grace of God in Christ. Jesus has born the heat of the day, and done the work for us. *O Lord, we thank You that Your eye toward us is good, and that You, in mercy, give us what we could never deserve: eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 23: The Picture Changes**

One of the best questions to ask when reading the Psalms is, "What's the picture?" Psalm 23 is perhaps the most famous Psalm because of the picture it paints. We are the guarded and safe sheep tasting the green grass and drinking the cool water. But then, in verse five, the picture changes. Suddenly we are on a battlefield surround with enemies who want to destroy us, but we are not afraid. No, there is a table prepared for us to feast, and a cup that overflows. What a picture! With the Lord on our side we barely notice our enemies. Instead we rejoice in the overflowing cup of His kindness and the feast of His loving care. *O Good Shepherd, Your goodness and mercy follow me, and I will dwell in Your house forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5, The Struck God**

"That Rock was Christ!" When we go back to Exodus 17:6 we read an amazing thing. The Lord says, "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it..." The Lord should be striking the people because of their bitter complaining and unbelief. But look, He stands on the rock to be struck by Moses. Jesus is the Rock that was struck. Jesus is God who was struck. Beaten for our iniquity, struck for our transgressions, nailed to the cross for our sins, and from His side flows the water of God's grace, the river of the Holy Spirit, which sustains us in the wilderness. *O Lord Jesus, out of Your side flow rivers of living water. Quench us, satisfy us, with Your Spirit. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 1:4-10: The Building and Planting Word**

The Lord puts His word in Jeremiah's mouth "to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (1:10). The Lord's word does all these things. It breaks and binds. It kills and makes alive. It roots out and it plants. Note the order. We normally think like this: we live and then we die. But with the Lord's word the order is reversed: we die and then we live. Law first, and then Gospel. Contrition first, and then faith. The Lord's word shows us how we truly deserve God's wrath, and then it shows us God's mercy in Christ. This is the rooting and the planting, and we rejoice in it. *O Lord God, build and plant us with Your enlivening word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 25:14-30: God as You Expect Him**

Here's a mysterious verse, Psalm 18:26: "With the purified You show Yourself pure; and with the crooked You make Yourself seem tortuous." I'll confess that I don't fully understand this text, but it does point to a profound spiritual mystery. If we expect the Lord to be harsh and fierce we find Him to meet our expectations. If, on the other hand, we expect the Lord to be kind and merciful through Christ, then we find Him to be so. The Lord doesn't change, but our faith in Christ not only forgives our sins, but it sets us free to expect good things from our Heavenly Father. *Our Father, we thank You for entrusting us with gifts and talents. Give us Your Holy Spirit so that we might freely spend ourselves in service to others. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 17:22-34: The Resurrection is the Stumbling Block**

Paul, alone in Athens, stands on Mars Hill among all the philosophers, and preaches Christ. It seems like they are listening until he gets to the resurrection. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, they mocked..." How do we think of our bodies? How do we think of this creation? The Greeks considered matter base, and our bodies to be a prison. We know that we are God's creation. We know that God has become a Man, a dead, buried, and raised Man. We know that on the last day we will be raised from the dead! This is foolishness to the Greek mind, but the firm hope of all believers. *O Lord, we give You thanks that in You we live, now and eternally. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 114: The Hills and the Sea Ran Away**

What a tremendous little Psalm that recalls the greatness of the Lord in the Exodus. The Lord went before His people, and the hills and the sea ran away. "What ails you, O sea, that you fled?" The Lord is frightful to His enemies. The Lord is a Champion to His friends. If God is marching out to war we want to be marching behind Him, not standing in front! Praise the Lord that Jesus has made us part of the Lord's people, part of God's family. Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should not be called "God's enemies," but instead, the "children of God." *Lord God, we give You thanks that Your strength is our protection. Amen.*

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