

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 66:4, 92:1; 66:1-5, 20**

All the earth shall | worship You,\*  
and sing praises to | You, O God.  
They shall sing praises | to Your name;\*  
to Your name, | O Most High.  
Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!\*  
Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise | glorious.  
Say to God, "How awesome | are Your works!\*"  
All the earth shall sing prais- | es to You."  
Come and see the | works of God;\*  
He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.  
Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,\*  
nor His mercy | from me!

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Romans 12:9**  
"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Almighty and everlasting God, Governor of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Your people and grant us Your peace in our time; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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  
**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

TLH 98, LSB 384  
Aurelius C. Prudentius



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| <p>1. Of the Father's love begotten<br/>Ere the worlds began to be,<br/>He is Alpha and Omega,<br/>He the Source, the Ending He,<br/>Of the things that are, that have been,<br/>And that future years shall see<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;<br/>Angel hosts, His praises sing;<br/>Powers, dominions, bow before Him<br/>And extol our God and King.<br/>Let no tongue on earth be silent,<br/>Every voice in concert ring<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>4. This is He whom Heaven-taught singers<br/>Sang of old with one accord;<br/>Whom the Scriptures of the prophets<br/>Promised in their faithful word.<br/>Now He shines, the Long-expected;<br/>Let creation praise its Lord<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> <p>5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,<br/>And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee<br/>Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving<br/>And unending praises be,<br/>Honor, glory, and dominion,<br/>And eternal victory<br/>Evermore and evermore.</p> |
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"God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create"

**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: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Create

The Lord comes to Cana with the first sign: God is here. This God has looked down and seen nothing but sin and wickedness, but in love He will come to redeem humanity and call us as His righteous people. He will give many gifts for the purpose of serving neighbor and loving God. He will continue sending pastors in His name to keep us in that faith. He will continue seeking us out, drawing us from the darkness and uniting us to Himself by His death and resurrection as the great bridegroom of the Church. All this so that we (who were last) would be considered first in the kingdom of heaven.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-11 – The First Sign

Jesus comes to a wedding and blesses them with wine so that the festivities, the celebration of two becoming one flesh, would not run short. But that's not the main point. The main point is that this is the first of His signs. It's the first sign that the Messiah, the Word made Flesh, the Son of God and Son of Man, the Light of eternity, has come into the world. It's the first sign that the Lord has come to earth to redeem humanity. It's the first sign that the Lord's wrath will be poured out on someone other than you. It's the first sign that salvation has come to the house of Israel and even to the Gentiles. It's the first sign that Jesus is God in the flesh for the sake of the world. *Lord, thank You for coming into the world to redeem us from sin. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 14 – The God Who is With the Righteous

"There is none who does good" says David. This is perhaps one of the most striking things in Christianity. We preach, "You're not good and you don't do good things." We are surrounded by a world which teaches exactly the opposite, that people are deep down generally good, and we only occasionally make little mistakes. But the Lord is directing us into the depths of our sins. Even our best deeds and intentions have no merit before Him. Our hope and comfort is not in our good deeds or in ourselves, but in this promise: "God is with the generation of the righteous." He's with those who are found in Jesus, by faith, and trust in His work for them. *Lord, let me place my trust fully in You and Your salvation. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:6-16 a – The Fruits of the Gospel

St. Paul lists what we should be doing. And while this isn't uncommon in the Bible, it's something we don't seem to pay much attention. We think that because salvation is by faith alone therefore no works are involved. But Paul is showing us the reality. As the Lord gives His grace to us our hearts and minds are changed from focusing on ourselves and evil things to serving our neighbor in love and "holding fast to what is good." Chief among the gifts we are to hold onto is the Lord's Word, wherein we are brought to faith, sustained in the faith, and encouraged and equipped toward all these good works. *Lord, help me to do the good works You have for me according to my vocation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:15-19 – Putting Words in Your Mouth

The Lord promises that His prophet will have the words of the Lord placed into His mouth. This prophecy culminates in Christ Who is the Word made flesh. Christ comes speaking and preaching the Lord's Word to both the Jew and Gentile so that many would hear and be brought to salvation. When the Lord commissions the church to go out into all the world, He takes these same words and places them into their mouths also. So the church continues today. The Lord sends us pastors with His Word on their lips so that we would be brought into and sustained in the faith. He sends His people out with those same words to bring light into a dark world. *Lord, bless me with lips that speak Your word rightly to the world around me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10 – A Lord Who Seeks

We know the story of Zacchaeus well, but what we might miss is the very end, what Jesus says about the whole situation: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." "Lost." That is a description of our state from birth because of the fall. We are lost, wandering in darkness and sin, and have no map to find our way out of it all. But this is also a description of how the Lord works for our sake. He is the One who not only saves the lost, but seeks them out, as a shepherd seeks out his sheep. Indeed, Christ is our good shepherd Who will seek out His lost sheep through the most unnatural of ways, by shedding His blood for them, and by destroying death for them. *Lord, thank You for seeking me out by Your word and sacraments. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:21-33 – The Love of the Bridegroom

The reason why this mystery of marriage is so profound is because it is a shadow of a greater mystery: Christ, in love, submits Himself to death for His bride the church. He serves her by stepping in the way of sin, death, and the devil, by taking upon His own body the full wrath of God so that she would be unharmed and stand before God as the beautiful creation she was intended to be. And the Church, in love, submits herself to the words and directing of this Bridegroom. She willingly stands under His love which will tell her when she's straying from the path as well as blessing her with every good gift from heaven. That every marriage stands as a reflection of this is indeed profound. *Lord, bless all husbands and wives with Your love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30 – In Reverse Order

Jesus says it a lot, "The first will be last." It would seem then that this is a rather important thing for us to give attention. Those who, at first glance, and at the beginning of their lives, have looked as though they were destined for destruction, have regularly ended up being some of the great pastors of the Church. St. Paul is but one great example of this. This man who was a persecutor of Israel, who stood over the first martyrdom in St. Stephen, is converted by the Lord, not just to be another Christian, but to be the chief Apostle to the Gentile nations. And it is through his hand that we receive the bulk of the New Testament writings. He who was last has been moved to the front of the line. *Lord, bless me with humility in the work You give me to do. Amen.*

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