

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
in the midst of Your / temple.
According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth:*

Your right hand is full of / righteousness.
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
God is in her / palaces;*

He is known as her / refuge.
Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,*
because of Your / judgments.
For this is God, our God forever and / ever;*

He will be our guide even / unto death.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold

TLH 260, LSB 745
Martin Luther



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| <p>1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
And let Thy pity waken:
How few are we within Thy Fold,
Thy saints by men forsaken!
True faith seems quenched on every
hand,
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
Dark times have us o'ertaken.</p> <p>3. May God root out all heresy
And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
That shall our speech forbid us?"</p> | <p>By right or might we shall prevail;
What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."</p> <p>5. As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So through God's Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter through the
cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.</p> |
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“Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God”

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: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God
“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing” (Matthew 7:15). Jesus says that we will know them by their fruits, their teaching. The wolves speak killing lies. Godly shepherds speak the life-giving Word (John 5:39). False teaching is sometimes subtle and hard to discern. Other times it’s a full-frontal assault against God’s mercy. The false teacher, too often, is our own flesh, our doubt that God loves sinners. In this Sunday’s gospel lesson, this is Simon’s mistake. Jesus corrects him with the truth which the woman already believes. She’s redeemed. She’s forgiven. By faith, she enjoys all the benefits of pure doctrine.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50 “The Boldness of Love Founded on Faith”

Jesus says, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven – for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” The woman marches into another man’s party like she owns the place. She knows her Redeemer is inside. Nothing can stop her worship. Her guilt and shame are gone. Simon and his friends’ stares don’t matter anymore. Neither do the shocked gasps. She has come to worship her Savior who has cleansed her conscience and wiped away her shame. With joy she weeps the tears that wash Jesus’ feet. These aren’t works to earn Jesus’ mercy. Every ounce of ointment, every kiss, is a confession of faith. She is testifying to how much God has loved her. *Forgive my sins, O Lord, for Christ’s sake, and teach me to boldly confess your name. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH) “Returning to the Lord’s Ways and Paths”

Pure doctrine is a treasure. It’s more precious than gold and more beautiful than jewels. David, and all the saints who have prayed this psalm after him, have vowed to cherish the gift, the gift of the instruction of the law and the comfort of the gospel. When temptations and evil desires tarnish our love for the gift, the Lord’s favor and help isn’t found merely in the resolve to do better, but in the favor of God, the undeserved favor that comes by promise. By faith in this promise, trusting that God is gracious to us for Christ’s sake alone, the Christian’s feet are turned once again to the testimonies and his lips praise the Lord for His righteous rules. *Grant me repentance and faith, O Lord, to return me to your ways and paths of righteousness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 “Slavery to the Flesh and Sonship through the Spirit”

Whom do you serve? Is it the dying, rotting flesh with its evil desires? The flesh, the inherited corruption from Adam, commands and requires sacrifice. “Satisfy the desires of your heart,” it says. “No one can stand in the way of what feels good to you.” “Who has the right to stand between you and happiness?” The flesh promises pleasure, but its benefits are empty, mere masks over death. Its subjects are not free, but slaves in the chains of the grave. But you don’t belong to this master. You have a better Lord, Christ, who has given you the Holy Spirit to make you a child of God. When the flesh tempts you back into slavery, call to your Father, “Abba!” and He will send comfort, His Word and Spirit. *Father, grant me the confidence of faith by your Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 “Power and Love”

If Jesus is a king, then He must have His most capable and trusted men to stand at His right and left. Human reason says that these men must be the strongest and smartest. I suppose that James and John seemed like perfect candidates, at least to their mom. Christ’s kingdom is not of this world. Greatness in the Church means that you must become nothing, that you must suffer all, even death, for the sake of many. This is the cup that Jesus requires His saints to drink. Christian greatness is self-denying love, not power. By His atoning death that reconciled you to God, Jesus taught you how to serve. Thanks be to God that the strength to serve by suffering comes not from within, but by God’s grace. *Teach me to love even as Christ loved me, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 “The Unshakable Foundation of Pure Doctrine”

Many take Jesus’ name on their lips, but that doesn’t mean that they espouse what He teaches. Countless false teachings have been justified and blessed by attaching the Savior’s name to men’s works and words. But unless Jesus’ name is bound to the content of His Word, then the name is empty and vain. Jesus and doctrine cannot be separated. “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” The Word of God, the teaching that men have been reconciled to God by Jesus’ blood, cannot fail. On the day of judgment, when the winds of God’s judgment blow, the Christians will stand with joy and confidence. Their Rock will not fail them. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 “Courage to Declare the Whole Council of God”

Before going to Jerusalem, Paul calls the Ephesian pastors together and preaches one last sermon to the shepherds of the sheep. He tells them that he is innocent of their blood. Why? He has held back not one shred of Christian doctrine. Every part of God’s Word, from the acceptable to the offensive, was held forth without shame. Your pastor must do the same. Wolves are attacking the sheep with human ideas that diminish the severity of the law and the sweetness of the gospel, that jettison the “unreasonable” teachings that comfort consciences and glorify Christ. Pray for your shepherds. Pray that the Lord grant them courage to feed the sheep with the whole council of God. *O Lord, grant that my pastors teach me your Word without fear. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 “Sowing in Tears, Reaping with Joy”

This psalm preaches the joy of the Christian Church. Even though this song was composed centuries before Jesus’ birth, the Old Testament saints sing as if every hope has been fulfilled in their presence. How can they do that? They have the confidence of faith. The Lord has promised that He would end the devil’s tyranny of lies. He promised that He would bring back life from death. The Seed will do this, the Son of David will sit on the throne forever. The Lord’s servant will atone for the sins of the world and He will subdue the Gentiles and bless them. The Lord has spoken. It’s as good as done. Though the Christian sows with tears, he will reap with joy. *Heavenly Father, grant me the knowledge and trust of faith so I can rejoice in the midst of tears. Amen.*

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