

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 66:10-11; Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad with her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may feed and be | satisfied*
with the consolation of her | bosom.
I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go into the house | of the Lord.”
Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem:*
“May they prosper who | love you.”
For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will | now say,*
“Peace be with- | in you.”

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 51:12**

“Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.”

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

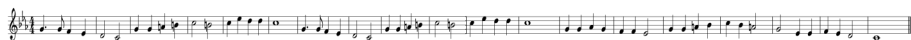
8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who do worthily deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of Your grace; 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
Jesus, Priceless Treasure

TLH 347, LSB 743
Johann Franck



1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest Friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,
Naught I ask beside Thee.

2. In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.



“He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners”

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 March 11-17, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

This Sunday we hear about food in the middle of a fasting season. No wonder the title of the Sunday is “Joy.” But if that is all, it falls into the very trap the crowd of 5,000 faced: They hoped at best they might never be hungry again in this life. Fasting is not for the sake of making Sunday brunch taste better. It is that we might displace our self-centered schedule with a focus on the Bread from Heaven, Jesus Christ. The Word of God feeds us. It gives us the bread by which we live forever. It gives joy that nothing can take away. Come and turn your eyes away from this world and your own belly. Come and turn your eyes toward the Savior of the world and eternal life, that amid the manifold chances and changes of this world, your heart may be fixed where true joys are to be found.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15—Bread, No Sweat

The feeding of the 5,000 initiates a long talk about bread. The key point is that the people wanted to take Jesus by force to make Him a king. They wanted more bread. They didn’t particularly want Him. Jesus shows Himself to be the new Moses, providing bread in the wilderness. He also shows Himself to be the Good Shepherd, feeding the flock by the green pasture. He is also the Messiah, gathering up all the twelve tribes so that none of them would be lost. He is more than daily bread. He is whatever sort of bread that satisfies for eternity: God for us. *Lord, do not withdraw from me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46—Still Amid the Storms

One would expect the Lord of hosts (the commander of armies of angels) to be noisy. In many Psalms, God is the one roaring and foaming, causing the nations to tremble. In this Psalm, God is the firm one, the calm one, and the one in whom peace may be found. He is with us. He is the refuge, the strength, and the present help in trouble. The one noise He makes is to utter His voice, at which the earth melts and all wars must cease. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Let faith find its rest in Him. *Lord, guard my heart in peace and keep it firm in You against all adversity. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31—A Fork in the Road

Law, Slave, Flesh, Temporary, Hagar; or Promise, Free, Eternal, Sarah. St. Paul explains the old story from Genesis 16 as an allegory of the two views on salvation—and why they are so opposed to each other. Abraham thought he’d take matters into his own hands with Hagar; God’s promise was the lasting son and heir, through Sarah. In the same way, those who seek God through their own works according to the Law act in a fleshly way only and remain slaves; those who trust the promise are free, and receive the eternal inheritance. *Lord, give me the joy of sonship by Your promises. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13—Now is the Day

“Behold, now is the favorable time; now is the day of salvation,” wrote St. Paul on this text. The advent of Christ is the advent of Israel’s restoration. Christ’s care for the hungry crowds fulfills this prophecy in a very literalistic way; but the true pity of the Lord is His greater reconciliation worked by His death and resurrection. Here He pours out compassion by enduring our punishments in our place. Here He cuts a New Covenant in His blood, to draw the scattered sheep of both Jew and Gentile to Himself. Therefore, we sing and exult. *Lord, restore to me the joy of Your salvation, that I treasure it. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51—God’s Will for My Life?

The will of God is not difficult to discern. God tells us: His will is that “everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” The will of God is our salvation, our sanctification, our redemption. That is why the will of God is found in Jesus Christ. It is found in human flesh. It is found in the one who gives Himself up for our life. Do not fret over discerning God’s will for you in food and drink, work and decision. His will is that you believe and have eternal life. *Lord, teach me to hunger for the eternal Bread of Life, always. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11—Precious and Very Great Promises

God has called us and given us precious and very great promises. It is through these promises that we become partakers of the divine nature. To partake of the divine nature is to cast aside and escape this world’s corruption, chiefly the deepest of all sinful desires. Thus, St. Peter enumerates the virtues that are ours and are increasing. To reject these is to reject Christ’s forgiveness, and His promises. To do them is to act in accordance with our calling and election, which is not caused or preserved by our virtue, but comes through His promises. *Lord, multiply Your grace and peace to me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139—Who Searches Whom?

Thinking about God’s knowledge and majesty is dizzying. “It is high, and we cannot attain it.” Furthermore, it is dangerous. Soon we recall that God knows all things, sees all things, and judges rightly. He works all in all. We know what works we deserve. We see that we cannot escape Him. That is why searching and pondering after God’s inner mind must be forgotten, and we must listen to what He speaks instead. We hear that His thoughts are, in fact, “precious” toward us. That He will be with us when we awake, in the resurrection. *Lord, search my heart, and comfort it with Your promises. Amen.*

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