**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK**  Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alleluia.
Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alleluia.
Say to God, “How awesome are Your works!”
Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.
Come and see the works of God;
He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.
Oh, bless our God, you peoples!
And make the voice of His praise to be heard,
He keeps our soul among the living.
And does not allow our feet to be moved.

**SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK**  Lamentations 3:22

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases: His mercies never come to an end.”

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

**PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

1. Like the golden sun ascending,
   Breaking through the gloom of night,
   On the earth his glory spending
   So that darkness takes to flight,
   Thus my Jesus from the grave
   And Death’s dismal, dreadful cave
   Rose triumphant Easter morning
   At the early purple dawning.

2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
   Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
   Death hath now no power o’er us,
   Thou hast conquered in the strife.
   Thanks because Thou didst arise
   And hast opened Paradise!
   None can fully sing the glory
   Of the resurrection story.

3. Thou hast died for my transgression,
   All my sins on Thee were laid:
   Thou hast won for me salvation,
   On the cross my debt was paid.
   From the grave I shall arise
   And shall meet Thee in the skies.
   Death itself is transitory;
   And shall meet Thee in the skies.

4. Thou hast died for my transgression,
   Thou hast won for me salvation,
   On the cross my debt was paid.
   From the grave I shall arise
   And shall meet Thee in the skies.
   Death itself is transitory;
   And shall meet Thee in the skies.

5. For the joy Thy advent gave me,
   For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,
   For Thy holy, precious Word;
   For Thy Bible, the bitter scorn,
   For Thy resurrection morn,
   Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,
   And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

6. For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
   For Thy blest Communion board:
   For Thy blood, for Thy Body,
   For Thy word, that I may know
   Thee to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

7. For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
   For Thy blest Communion board:
   For Thy blood, for Thy Body,
   For Thy word, that I may know
   Thee to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

8. For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
   For Thy blest Communion board:
   For Thy blood, for Thy Body,
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   Thee to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

9. For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
   For Thy blest Communion board:
   For Thy blood, for Thy Body,
   For Thy word, that I may know
   Thee to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

10. For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
    For Thy blest Communion board:
    For Thy blood, for Thy Body,
    For Thy word, that I may know
    Thee to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**PRAY 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.

**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:** He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy

We are held fast in the Lord’s promises. Sin, death, and the devil wear us down. None of us would last on our own until the last day, but Jesus has already conquered those enemies upon the cross for you. His gifts are delivered by Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. In these grey and latter days we have a light that darkness cannot overcome. Christ is risen! Christ will return. And Christ is here for you in body and blood, in water and word, in promise and life.

**SUN**

**Scripture:** John 16:16-23 Time Doesn’t Comfort; Jesus Does.

Time can’t comfort someone. A little while to a child waiting for dinner is an eternity, even if it’s measured in minutes. Facing sin, death, and the devil, comfort isn’t “when God will be back” if that “when” isn’t right now. Our comfort comes even now. God is working now. Jesus tells the disciples as He goes to die and rise for them. For you. God is more than a “someday” heaven. He’s a present-day help. Even if you can’t know when your resurrection is, you can see where Your God has already conquered your enemies. He is risen! O LORD, send forth Your Holy Spirit to grant us comfort as we wait for the promised resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MON**

**Scripture:** Psalm 75 There’s a Reason Things Haven’t Tipped Over.

As bad as things are in the world, it’s a wonder it hasn’t toppled yet. The Lord keeps steady its pillars. Don’t boast in what you can build, thinking it will last. It isn’t as impressive as you think. If you trust in what you build, when the earth totters, there will be nothing left. Look rather to the Lord, who lifts up the righteous. Give thanks. He keeps you steady, not from far away. His name is near. He is at work here. Now. For you. O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your works, that we would be pulled from our idols that topple, and upheld in Your righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**TUE**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:11-20 Free to Serve

You’re free in the Gospel. Your sins are forgiven. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yet, Christianity is not an excuse. Sin breaks stuff. Good works help people. The God who died for you for your neighbor, and wants them served just as much as He wants you saved. Rejoice that God wants to bind us together into something more than what we can wrestle from each other. There is more to gain than what you can take from someone else, and more, you already have it. O LORD, let us ever see our neighbors as Your beloved, that we would serve them according to Your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**WED**

**Scripture:** Lamentations 3:18-26 The Waiting is the Hardest Part.

Wait for the Lord. We always start here with the verse, but that’s the hardest part. I can’t wait till dinner half the time. My endurance has perished. Instead, remember. Remember, that we would hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. Wait. That won’t work by our own strength. But even when our strength fails, the Lord’s mercies are new all over again. Don’t measure your faith by your endurance or will. Measure it by God’s promises. It creates the very things it speaks of. It endures for you. O LORD, renew Your mercies each day that we would be kept in faith waiting for You. Amen.

**THU**

**Scripture:** John 14:1-11 The Truth Hurts Sometimes.

Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life. It’s great for the simple stuff. Jesus holding children. Lambs in a pasture. But the Bible is full of stuff we wish wasn’t true. It calls us sinners. It leaves us trying to wiggle out of that statement that’s supposed to bring us comfort. “The way, the truth, the life.” Amen! It’s not our job to get there. He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us. He bore the cross to forgive your sins. In His death and resurrection, your way forward is clear and finished. O LORD, keep us in Your way and truth, that we would receive Your life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**FRI**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:14-16 He Knows, But More, He Saves.

The Lord knows what you’re going through because He’s borne it Himself. God became man to suffer for you. But He doesn’t just sympathize in an “aww, that’s tough” kind of way. He draws us near to His throne of grace, that when the burdens of this life and the enemies overwhelm us, we would be given help in every need. The Lord can sympathize with us, but more, what beats us doesn’t beat Him. Not even death. He is risen. He has saved us from that which overwhelms us. He draws us to His side. O LORD, You know our temptations and pains. Deliver us from evil, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SAT**

**Scripture:** Psalm 146 God Has a Joyful Laugh.

God laughs when we make plans, but it isn’t out of cruelty. The same Lord opens the eyes of the blind to the futility of all we plan and the promises of all He delivers. Praise the Lord, not because He’s the means to getting what I want, but because even when I want what can’t save, He loves me enough to fix my eyes on Him and keep faith forever. Even if all your plans fail apart, the Lord watches over the sojourners, the travelers of this wretched world. He loves you, the righteous, baptized into holiness and life. O LORD, Your thoughts are not our thoughts and Your ways are not our ways. Help us to see Your goodness, that we would trust You in the paths we walk, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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