



“He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9**
 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.
 Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!*”
 Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-
 | selves 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.

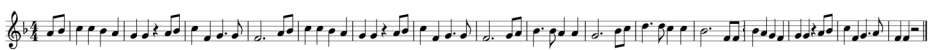
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Lamentations 3:22**
 “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an
 end.”

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

8 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.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Like the Golden Sun Ascending**
 TLH 207, LSB 548
 Thomas Kingo



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.

4. 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;
 I shall lift my head in glory.

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

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 May 12-18, 2019

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 this 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 died 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 fall 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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