**PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK**

Psalm 98:1-2, 3-4

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alleluia! His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alleluia!

His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER**

Morning: 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 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 Proclaim the Truth**

As we reflect on the truth that our Lord Jesus proclaims in His resurrection, this week we see the necessity of it all. Not only the necessity of His death for our salvation, but the necessity of His death as a witness to the truth of His Gospel. We see also the necessity of our response to His love for us. We pray that God would grant us the necessary meekness to hear this Gospel and that we would rightly respond in praise and thanksgiving for the salvation that Jesus accomplished for us at the cross.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 16:5-15: The Necessity of God’s Plan

Before our Lord Jesus was raised from the dead He first had to die. Our Lord taught His disciples many times concerning His impending death. Our text is one example. In it, as Jesus speaks of what is to come, one thing becomes clear: the necessity of it all. It was necessary for Jesus to die. It was necessary for Him to die for our sins. It was necessary for Him to return to the Father. It was necessary for the Holy Spirit to be given to His people. And it is necessary for Him to come again. All of these things are necessities not for Jesus Himself as though He needs them, but they are necessities for us and for our sake. All of these things are necessities not for Jesus Himself as though He needs them, but they are necessities for us and for our sake. They are necessities for His people. And it is necessary for Him to come again. All of these things are necessities not for Jesus Himself as though He needs them, but they are necessities for us and for our sake. All of these things are necessities for us and for our sake.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 82: The Necessity of God’s Judgment

This is a hard text. We don’t often speak of God in these ways. Our God sitting in a council of gods? But if we keep reading, we see that God is there to judge those who are on this council. They may take the title of gods, but they will fall like princes because of their injustice and evil rulings. This speaks to the glory of our resurrected Lord Jesus. As we read yesterday, the Holy Spirit convicts the world because of sin. It is necessary for Jesus to judge the world. This is a terrifying thing for those who do not belong to Him. But in faith and by baptism we have the assurance of His love, and not His judgment. We are not gods, but we are the children of the true God. **O Lord, come quickly to judge the nations and restore creation for the benefit of Your faithful people. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** James 1:16-21: The Necessity of Meekness

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is incredibly significant. It brings us the truth of redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. However, James does well to point out that we can prevent ourselves from hearing this beautiful message. When we are full of anger, it is difficult to hear the words of God’s love and it is also difficult to speak such words of love. James reminds us that anger does not produce righteousness. He encourages us to see the necessity of meekness so that we may receive this Word of truth, which is able to save our souls. **O Lord, please forgive my rampant wickedness and anger. Grant to me, I pray, the meekness to receive Your Word with gladness and to rejoice in the salvation You have given me. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** John 8:21-36: The Necessity for Jesus to Die

Jesus, in our text, reveals the necessity of His death. He tells the Jews arguing with Him that they will know the truth of what Jesus says when He is lifted up. We know that He was lifted up by the cross. At the cross and the empty tomb we see the truth of all Jesus said. From the events of His crucifixion with the darkness and the earthquake to His physical resurrection, it all becomes clear. Jesus truly is God and has been sent by His Father. It was necessary for Jesus to die so that we might see His truth and glory, which shines even into our day and into eternity. **O Lord, I praise You for Your dying for me and rising again. Through Your blood, I am healed and forgiven. Grant that I may see Your glory all my days. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 5:14-21: The Necessity of Reconciliation

We know that it was necessary for Jesus to die. In our text today, we see another facet of this necessity. It was necessary for Jesus to die so that we would have life in Him. We have life in Him and we have life for Him now that He has redeemed us. Through the work of Christ we are made new creatures, part of His new creation. This righteousness allows us to be in God’s presence. Because we are new creations in Jesus, we have been reconciled to God in fullness. All of this necessity is given for our benefit that we may have peace with God through Jesus. **O Lord, You have made me new and made me righteous. Grant that I may remain in Your grace and serve You faithfully. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 126: The Necessity of Waiting

We see in this text the result of these necessary things God has done, most importantly His death and resurrection. As a result of the redemption that is ours in Christ, we rejoice. We see that our sorrows are turned to joy. Our tears of pain become tears of joy. These are the promises that are ours in Christ right now, even if we don’t see them in their fullness. But we know that it is necessary for us to wait. We wait for the day when we see these things fulfilled in front of our very eyes on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. This is the promise that we have. It is in this that we hope. **O Lord, I thank You for the mercies You have shown me so many times in my life. I pray that I might have the eyes to see Your mercies and that I would then praise and thank You as I ought. Amen.**

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