

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 40:20, Psalm 66:1, 17, 19-20**

With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth. Alle- | luia.\*

The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob! Alle- | luia.  
Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!\*

Sing out the honor | of His name.  
I cried to Him | with my mouth,\*  
and He was extolled | with my tongue.  
Certainly God has | heard me;\*  
He has attended to the voice | of my prayer.  
Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,\*  
nor His mer- | cy from me!

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 124:8**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God our Father, from whom all good things do come, grant to us, Your humble servants, that by Your holy inspiration we may think those things that be right and by Your merciful guiding may perform them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, 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  
**Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above**

TLH 458, LSB 766  
Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Our Father, Thou in heaven above,<br/>Who biddest us to dwell in love,<br/>As brethren of one family,<br/>To cry in every need to Thee,<br/>Teach us no thoughtless word to say,<br/>But from our inmost heart to pray.</p>    | <p>8. From evil, Lord, deliver us;<br/>The times and days are perilous.<br/>Redeem us from eternal death,<br/>And when we yield our dying breath,<br/>Console us, grant us calm release,<br/>And take our souls to Thee in peace.</p>             |
| <p>2. Thy name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,<br/>In purity to keep Thy Word,<br/>That to the glory of thy name<br/>We walk before Thee free from blame.<br/>Let no false doctrine us pervert;<br/>All poor, deluded souls convert.</p> | <p>9. Amen, that is, So shall it be.<br/>Confirm our faith and hope in Thee<br/>That we may doubt not, but believe<br/>What here we ask we shall receive.<br/>Thus in Thy name and at Thy word<br/>We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!<br/>Amen.</p> |



“He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to 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: He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God

Jesus is alive and so the victory is ours. Jesus is alive and so He sits at the right hand of the Father mediating as our High Priest. Jesus is alive and so He has sent the Holy Spirit to intercede with prayers and groanings too deep for words that our sinful flesh does not know to pray. Jesus is alive and so death is dead, Satan is vanquished, and sins are forgiven. Jesus is alive and so the Father sees us through the lens of His risen Son; sees us perfect and righteous and holy. Jesus is alive and so even though we sit in the “now but not yet” we have everything given to us that our risen Christ has given to Him. Jesus is alive and so we have nothing to fear.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:23-30—This is High Priest Sort of Stuff

Jesus is our High Priest. That is what He ascended to 40 days after His resurrection. A High Priest mediates between God and man, grants access to the Father through His office as Priest. That is Jesus. That is what He accomplished on Good Friday, set in place on Easter Sunday, and fulfilled on Ascension Day. This is all for you! You no longer must go through a sinful priest in order to get access to God. You no longer have to question whether or not you are worrying enough for God to listen to or care about you. Jesus gives you all these things. He sets in place the way in which you can have full access to your Heavenly Father and receive all of His gifts of grace and mercy and forgiveness. Because of Jesus, God is your Father. He listens to you and promises to grant you all things needed to support this body and life, and life-everlasting. *Father, hear my prayer through Your Son. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84—A Doorkeeper for God

Sometimes we feel like singing this Psalm: *sometimes*. Sometimes we see the gifts given by our Lord to us in the Divine Service and want to express our wonder and gratitude in any way imaginable. Sometimes we delight in our place within the courts of our Lord, the cross that is on our back, knowing that God is our strength and shield, knowing that He withholds nothing that we need. Sometimes we feel like this. Sometimes we don't. Sometimes desiring to be a doorkeeper in the house of God is difficult, the last thing that we want. It is at these times that we know for sure that God finds a home, even for the sparrows: How much more important am I to Him? He is my Sun and my Shield and bestows on me favor and honor, not sometimes. Always. *Hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:22-27—The Law of Liberty

James talks an awful lot about the Law and our works. We might not like that, but maybe the reason that we are so uncomfortable is because we don't understand the Law and the liberty that Christ grants to us. The perfect Law is perfect freedom and liberty, when fulfilled in Christ. The merits are given to us on the basis of our baptism into the death of Jesus Christ. In Christ we are free to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are free to look on the needs of those around us and to love them by serving them, without any hope of salvation attached to these good works. In Christ we are set free from the Law *unto salvation* so that we can look to the Law as a good gift to help us serve our neighbor. *Holy Spirit, make us doers of the Word by hearing the Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:11-14—Difficult Words to Believe

Jeremiah writes these Words of comfort to exiles of Judah and Jerusalem who had been sent away to Babylon. God sent them days of sadness, days of trials and sufferings. He did this because of their disobedience and unbelief. But He didn't do this only to correct and reprove them, but in order to draw them back to Him, to repent them. The promise here for exiles, for all us sinners, is that God is not slow to save. Even in the midst of His heavenly/fatherly discipline He is working both to and for our salvation. He promises to never give to us more than we can bear, and what is more, that in the midst of any suffering that He might send to us, He will be with us always to the very end of the age. He has promised that He will return to us so that we might be brought to be with Him forever. *Most merciful Father, hear my prayer when I call upon You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:14-20—Be Not Afraid

Jesus sends the disciples and the church out into the world with an astonishing fearlessness. Snakes? Poison? Sickness? Trouble? Christ is risen! He has conquered death! And He gives His conquering of death to His people through the great and wonderful gift of baptism. "We were buried with [Christ] by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Jesus has passed from death to life, and has promised us the same thing: the resurrection of our bodies and life everlasting! How can we be afraid? By baptism we are partakers of the Lord's resurrection and His life eternal. *Lord Jesus, give us boldness to live by faith in Your eternal life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:24-28—Hope

The Spirit prays for us. Thank the Lord that He does! We often have no idea what to pray for. We stand in the “now but not yet”, the “it is ours, but I don't feel like it is”, the “I have this promise, but how can I be sure.” It is a tough place to be stuck. Our Lord does what He always does: He tells us to do something and then does for us what is required. We hope in the future glory promised in the Resurrection, when there will be no more groaning in our bodies wracked with sin. Then we will know the promise of eternal life with sanctified and redeemed bodies, perfect like they were in the Garden of Eden. That is our hope. We pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in this promise and assurance. When our groaning bodies cause us to doubt, we ask that the Spirit would pray the words our sinful selves cannot. *Holy Spirit, intercede with Your groanings. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124—Our Help is in the Name of the Lord

If it weren't for the Lord, if it weren't for Jesus for us, then we should just pack it all up. We would truly be lost. Sin would win the day, death would kill us, and Satan would devour us. If it weren't for God, the one who made heaven and earth, placing His name upon us, then we would be doomed. If it weren't for the Resurrection of Jesus, then we would be the most pitied, our hope and confidence would be a lie. But God is on our side. In death and life, in the cross and the grave, in Word and water, in bread and wine, God is for us. He is with us. We can sing and rejoice. We stand firm in the promises of the forgiveness of sins and the victory over the demons and a resurrected body and soul. The Lord is on our side, He has not given us over to our enemies. *O Lord, forever be on our side. Amen.*

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