

“The Blessedness of the Saints of God”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Revelation 12:11; Psalm 33:1, 13-15**

They overcame him by the blood / of the Lamb*
 and by the word of their testi- / mony,
 They did not / love their lives*
 even / unto death.
 Rejoice in the Lord, O you / righteous!*
 For praise from the upright is / beautiful.
 The Lord looks from / heaven;*
 He sees all the / sons of men.
 From the place of His dwell- / ing He looks*
 on all the inhabitants / of the earth;
 He fashions their hearts indi- / vidually;*
 He considers / all their works.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 5:11-12**

“Blessed are you when others revile against you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O almighty God, who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys that you have prepared for those who unfeignedly love You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Christ, Thou Art The Sure Foundation

TLH 466
 Author Unknown



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| <p>1. Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation, Thou the Head and Corner-stone; Chosen of the Lord and precious Binding all the Church in one; Thou Thy Zion's Help forever And her Confidence alone.</p> | <p>3. Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain, What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain, And hereafter in Thy glory, Evermore with Thee to reign.</p> |
| <p>2. To this temple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today; With Thy wonted loving-kindness Hear Thy servants as they pray And Thy fullest benediction Shed within these walls always.</p> | <p>4. Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son, Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One, One in might and one in glory, While unending ages run.</p> |

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: **The Blessedness of the Saints of God**

The saints are blessed in Christ; the saints on earth and the saints in heaven; the saints militant and the saints triumphant; the saints that are still sinners and the saints that have been forever freed from all sin. They are all blessed in Christ, blessed with the same promise, the same victory, the same salvation. The saints rejoice, whether in heaven or on earth. They rejoice in times of gladness and persecution. They rejoice in sorrow and in elation. For the saints are blessed with the victory of Christ Jesus their Lord. And that victory is as certain as the empty tomb on Easter morning.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:1-12—Blessed Be...**

The Beatitudes give us eight conditions and eight subsequent promises. We would like the conditions to be about us. We would like to lay claim to be the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and merciful, the ones who desire righteousness and are pure in heart, the peacemaker and those persecuted for righteousness. In a sense we are, but over and above all, the Beatitudes are first Christological, that is, they are about Jesus. When they are about Jesus, then, and only then, can they truly be about us as well. For if Christ isn't all of these things for us, then we can't hope to be any of these things for anyone. The Church follows Her Bridegroom. The Body follows the Head. The sinners follow the Savior and are made to be saints. It's the way of the Christian faith. It's the way of salvation. It's the way of Jesus. *Gracious Father, make us blessed in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **1 John 3:1-3—Children of God**

We are saints and will be forever. What is to come is too far beyond our finite imaginings. The sinner within doesn't know what it will mean to be a saint that isn't still tainted with sin. The sinner right now has difficulty grasping the fact that God has made us to be saints even today. But we are. What else does it mean to be children of God? We've been born anew in and through Baptism. In this world we sit and wait for the coming of the Lord, knowing that we will be like Him when He comes again. The world may despise us for it. The world may ridicule us for our saintly natures, especially when our sinfulness still shows its ugly face. But the world does not know us because it does not know Christ nor his Baptism. No matter! God knows us, and He knows us to be His children. *Loving Father, make us to be Your children that our hope may abide in Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 7:2-17—The Great Multitude**

John speaks to us again, just like yesterday. In Revelation, we get a glimpse as to what it will be like when the saints are brought forth from this Vale of Tears. The Church is sealed, stamped with the name of God upon Her forehead. That means that the Church has eternal rest, far away from all the calamities that befall the world. To be sure, She must endure and suffer and shed more than a few tears, but the promise of victory is already Hers, written upon Her forehead in the name of Her Lord. So the Church triumphantly stands in spotless white robes that have come out of Christ's cleansing bloody red bath. Palm branches of victory are eternally waving before God and the Lamb who is Her very Shepherd. And all tears are gone; pain and agony too. Even death is destroyed. *Lamb of God, seal Your Church and bring Her safely to the glories of life eternal. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 51:9-16—The Comfort of the Lord**

Zion sits in the remnant of Her sin; enslaved in a Babylonian captivity that is both real and metaphorical. She cries out for the arm of the Lord, for salvation from Her God, for He has never ceased to save Her. The Lord speaks comforting words, words of remembrance, words of past victories and past salvation. Why would Zion fear man who withers like grass? The Lord has already saved Her through the Red Sea washing and desert wandering. He will do it again. Remember, harken back to the things of salvation, to the things of Jesus, to the things of the cross. The Lord has already saved you from your enemies. As these enemies surround us, let us receive all the more the victory of that cross: Word and water, Bread and Wine. The Strength of the Lord's arm is given unto us. *Holy Lord, never stop saving Zion. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:18-26—Funeral Crasher**

A dirge plays in the background while mourners mourn in the foreground. That is a funeral in a nutshell, and tell me, what else is to be done at death? We sit and we weep and sing a song of lament for the dead. But then Jesus comes sweeping onto the scene and speaks of death as only "sleep." To us this is laughable, but to Him death is no more than an afternoon nap from which He wakes up His precious little children. It is quite the dichotomy, for Jesus weeps at death too. But He weeps as one Who still has the victory, Who hates this enemy that brings pain and sorrow, even though He has all authority over it. Perhaps that is how we should weep as well: not as ones who have no hope, but as ones who know that the victory is ours because the victory is His. Yes, death still stings, but the sting lasts but for a moment. *Jesus, take us by the hand and raise us from the dead. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Colossians 1:9-14—Paul Prays**

Paul and Timothy pray for the saints at the Church in Colossae. That is what pastors do; they pray for their congregation. That is what Christians do; they pray for each other. The prayer is that the Church may be filled with the knowledge of God's will, that she may gain all wisdom so as to bear the fruit laid out for her to bear and to increase in the knowledge of her God. This knowledge of the Lord is nothing less than the knowledge of His salvation. The Father has qualified His Church to share in the inheritance of the saints, of which they are already, now but not yet. Because we have been moved from one kingdom to the next, from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the Son, Paul prays that the Church might be kept steadfast in this faith and sing for joy in her glorious salvation. *Father, may You ever send us pastors that continually pray over us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 125—Surrounded by God**

Lord, God of all that is righteous and good, You have set Your holy people to be firm and unmovable, like Mount Zion itself. As Jerusalem is covered in the shadow of the mountains that surround her, so too are we sheltered from all harm and danger as You surround us both now and forevermore with Your gracious protection. Let not the wickedness of this world lay hold of us and may its dominion last but a short time. Turn our hearts to You, gracious Savior. Make us good, right, and holy in Your eyes through the work of Your Son that we might expect nothing but Fatherly divine love and mercy all the days of our lives. Grant us freedom from all evil and all those who would despise You, Your name, and Your holy people. Give us patience in these days of misery as we await the goodness of Your eternal life to come. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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