

“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 5:10**

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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

This week of All Saints' reminds us of three biblical truths. First, that God desires all men to be saved and invites us to communion with Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Secondly, that in this world of sin and unbelief, the Christian saint will have no lack of trouble. And thirdly, God will at last take His saints to Himself in heaven, where together with all who trust in His promises they will receive the fullness of the comfort and joy promised to them on earth. *Lord Jesus, preserve us in these precious truths of Your Word until we see You face to face! Amen.*

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 – The Blessedness of the Christian Life

Today, the Lord reminds us through His Word what true blessedness is. The world, and even our own tainted hearts locate blessedness in the things of this world – money, health, pleasure, a healthy family, friends, and the like. Jesus upends our expectations by locating blessedness for us in Himself alone. Those who are blessed will surely experience persecution and hardship for His sake, for the joy of the saint is not found in this world, which is ever at odds with the preaching of the Word, but in the only true God and His kingdom of grace. *Lord Jesus, we are blessed in Your forgiveness alone. Keep us steadfast in Your Word and truth. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125 – The Lord Surrounds His Saints

“The scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous...” The reason for this reminder is that sometimes the rule of evil does indeed come upon God’s people as they are put under foot, maligned, and persecuted for confessing Jesus. This psalm is a psalm of perseverance. Though the wicked rule often in unrighteousness, the Lord surrounds His saints like the mountains of Jerusalem. He stands guard over them. Jesus has already defeated evil at the cross and the battle is already won. The end is certain. Zion, that is, the Holy Church cannot be moved, and in His time, the Lord will bring her home at last. *Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:2-17 – The Vision of Heaven

Who we are in life will not be destroyed, but perfected. The Lord grants John a vision of what is going on in Heaven and oh, what a sight it is! John sees all the different peoples and languages and tribes and nations all confessing the Christ, waving palms of victory. Heaven therefore is not some egalitarian kingdom of sameness, where every saint looks, speaks, and acts just the same. That is boring. Instead God perfects our natures in Christ. John clearly recognizes distinct peoples and attributes. So it is that those attributes which so delight you in your Christian friends and family in this life, God will perfect in the resurrection and life everlasting. That is who they really are! *God grant us by faith to be in that blessed number. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 51:9-16 – Faith in the Midst of Fear

When God speaks His Word to us, they have the force of an oath (V. Herberger). When God says to us “You are my people” (vs 16) He means it. We are His dear treasure. But how often our flesh forgets. We fear all manner of things. We fear men and what they can do to us (vs. 12). We forget that it is the Lord who has redeemed us with His precious blood and will lead us to the Zion of our eternal home with singing, where sorrowing and sighing shall flee away (vs. 11). So the Lord reminds us. He speaks His Word to us “And I have put my words in your mouth” (vs. 15). His preached word comforts us in the midst of our trials that we would fear no evil. *Lord keep us attentive to Your promises to us, that we would not despair. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:18-26 – Faith Grasps and Receives

Faith receives and grasps what the Lord has to give. There is something here in this reading about the hands. The woman with the flow of blood reached out in faith and touched the hem of Jesus’ garment. But the girl, recently dead, cannot do anything. She cannot reach out her hand and touch the Lord and receive what He has to give. Or can she? Indeed the Lord himself slips His hand into hers and raises her from the dead. In both cases, the woman and the young girl, faith is the gift and working of the Holy Spirit which touches the Lord Jesus and receives His gifts. The one account informs the other. Faith is a gift. Through God’s working, we too have been saved and raised from the dead. *Lord Jesus, put Your hand into mine and raise me up. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-14 – Qualifications of the Saint

A qualification is a quality or standard which one must have or attain to receive certain goods, such as a job or membership in a club. Students know all about pre-requisite classes. Same idea. You must have something in yourself before you can get something better. But what are the qualifications of the saint? What do you have to do? The Holy Scriptures give us a startling answer: Jesus’ redemption on the cross and the forgiveness of our sin (vs. 14). Nothing in you, no quality in your person, qualifies you for heaven and the fellowship of the holy ones. Indeed we give “thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (vs. 12). No pre-test required. *Lord God, You redeem me without any merit or worthiness in me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18:1-19 – What’s Your Fort?

Children build forts (or at least they should). There among the treehouses, snow-walls, or even pillow cushions, brothers and sisters and neighbor kids can wage total war on each other, all in the name of fun. But what if your enemy is real? What if your enemy is the devil, the world, and your sinful nature? They want to kill you, or at the very least kill your faith and your soul, to give you a bad conscience. What’s your fort, your security? Money? Family? Health? Your piety? Your church? No. Pillow forts all. Take refuge in the Lord God. He is your rock and your fortress, the one who saves you from death and hell though the hoards around you lay siege. Jesus is your Rock, your Fortress, and your Deliverer. *Lord, let me take refuge in You. Amen.*

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