

**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 **Psalm 18:2**

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in Whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

**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 Salvation**

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



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

The realities of life can, at times, weigh heavily upon us. In these times, we are given to realize that our reason and strength are incapable of deliverance. Mercifully, we are not left to fend for ourselves. In baptism, we were adopted by our Heavenly Father into the kingdom of heaven. As heirs of the kingdom, saints of heaven, we are blessed. As we are given to bear our crosses in life, the reality is that we are protected and delivered by our Lord through death unto life everlasting. How blessed are the saints of God!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 5:1-12 "Blessed are you"**

Jesus says that you are blessed when others revile you and persecute you falsely on account of Him. He is addressing His disciples and with the use of the word "you," Jesus reaches through the text and addresses the saints of all time—yes, even you. He encourages the saints to see that suffering on account of Him is a blessing. To bear the name of Jesus publicly often invites persecution. Rather than be afraid or despair, Jesus calls us to rejoice, "for our reward is great in heaven." The saints before us were persecuted; Jesus was persecuted; and so we can expect persecution, but not without blessing. *Lord Jesus, trusting firmly in the blessed salvation You won for me, grant me the grace to boldly bear Your name and endure persecution. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 125 "The Lord surrounds His people"**

"Built on the Rock the Church shall stand even when steeples are falling." We sing these words even as the works of the evil foe unfold before our eyes. The Lord will protect and deliver His saints from the scepter of wickedness. He calls His own to trust in Him and He promises to surround His people from this time forth and forevermore. In the face of evil, we cling to the Rock, the Word of God, the Gospel, which promises salvation to all who believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this time of great tribulation do not despair or lose hope, but rather continue to be upright and fight the good fight of faith. *Lord, restrain the work of the evil foe and surround us with Your protection that we may remain steadfast in You unto life everlasting. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 7:2-17 The Saints are Sealed**

We live in a time of great tribulation. We can look at the world, our society, and even examine ourselves and cry out to the Lord, "how long?" In the midst of all of the frightful uncertainty that swirls around, you are protected by His mighty hosts having received the seal of God in your baptism. Though His judgment, the blow of the trumpet on the Last Day, could come at any time, we are called to stand firm with our Lord that others may repent and come to know His mercy. We the saints now living in the great tribulation are called "the Church Militant," while the saints that are even now gathered at the throne are called "the Church Triumphant." *Lord deliver me, keep me faithful that I may join the chorus that attends Your throne. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 51:9-16 "I AM He Who comforts you."**

There are many times when we could cry out to God with the words of Isaiah, "Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago." Lord, You delivered Your people of old. Why are you so far away from me? In the very midst of this plea, the Lord answers. "I AM He who comforts you. Have you forgotten your Maker, the One Who laid out the heavens and the foundations of the earth? I have put My Words in your mouth, given you My promises. You are covered in the shadow of My hand. You are My people." *Lord keep me steadfast in Your Word, especially when I am tempted to believe that You are aloof and uncaring, that I may know Your love and deliverance through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:18-26 "Your faith has made you well."**

Our Lord is merciful. When His suffering servants approach Him on bended knee, He acts with compassion. By a faithful brush with the hem of Jesus' garment, a twelve-year plague of blood is stopped. With a simple touch from the Lord of Life, a young girl rises from her deathbed. Though we may not be able to seek Jesus in a crowd today, He has not lost His touch. In your baptism, our Lord looked upon you, reached out to you, and had mercy, for He raised you up from the deathbed of sin and gave you new life in His name. *Lord Jesus Christ, may Your saving power, offered to the world on the cross and given to me personally in baptism, continue to sustain me as I live in the faith that You have mercifully given. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Colossians 1:9-14 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness"**

St. Paul's prayer for saints of Colossae is that they might live in and be strengthened by the blessings of their baptismal identity. The blessings apply to all the saints. Having received Christ in baptism, we are called to walk in a manner pleasing to Him that our works will bear fruit and our knowledge of God will increase. We receive our strength daily by the power of His glorious might that we may endure all things with patience and joy. We give thanks to the Father who has qualified us, through the waters of holy baptism, to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. *Father, thank You for delivering me from the domain of darkness and transferring me to the kingdom of Your beloved Son, in Whom I have redemption, the forgiveness of my sins. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 18:1-19 "The Lord is my rock and my fortress"**

The Lord attends to the needs of His saints. He is not aloof, but present and active. In this psalm, David thanks and praises the Lord for delivering him from the assaults of his enemies. We, too, can rejoice and give thanks, knowing the Lord is our strength and our fortress. As we call upon Him, He assures us of our salvation in Him. Martin Luther reflects on this theme in song: "A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon; He helps us free from every need that hath us now o'ertaken" (LSB 656 v.1). Even if our enemies were to take our life, "goods, fame, child, and wife, our victory has been won the kingdom ours remaineth" (LSB 656 v.4). *Lord we thank You for preserving us from evil and praise You for Your salvation. Amen.*

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