

“The Reformation of the Church of Christ”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 46:7, 2, 4-6, 10**

The Lord of hosts is / with us;*
 the God of Jacob is our / refuge.
 Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth / be removed,*
 and though the mountains be carried into the midst / of the sea.
 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the ci- / ty of God,*
 the holy place of the tabernacle of the / Most High.
 God is in the midst of her, she shall / not be moved;*
 God shall help her, just at the / break of dawn.
 The nations raged, the king- / doms were moved;*
 He uttered His voice, the earth / melted.
 Be still, and know that / I am God;*
 I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Revelation 14:6**

“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord 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
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656
 Martin Luther



1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
 A trusty Shield and Weapon;
 He helps us free from every need
 That hath us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil Foe
 Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
 On Earth is not his equal.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us.
 We tremble not, we fear no ill,
 They shall not overpower us.
 This world's prince may still
 Scowl fierce as he will,

He can harm us none,
 He's judged; the deed is done;
 One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
 He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
 And take they our life,
 Goods, fame, child and wife,
 Let these all be gone,
 They yet have nothing won;
 The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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 Reformation of the Church of Christ

The World fights against the Lord and His Church. It tries to seize it by force. It tries to bypass Christ to get in on its own merits. It even kills those who belong to the Lord. But Christ has set His Church as a fortress that endures throughout all ages. It stands against the world, our own flesh, and even the gates of hell. The Church will endure forever because it stands on the eternal gospel that is for all people of all time. And it will never fail.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 – A Kingdom that can't be Seized

“The kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.” The world always fights against the Lord, thinking that the kingdom of heaven is some sort of prize which can be won in a contest of might. But the kingdom of heaven can only be given. It belongs to the Lord and no amount of violence or weapons can pry it from His hands. The kingdom of heaven stands against every assault and every foe, even against the very gates of hell. The kingdom of heaven is built upon the rock that is Christ, Who in His great mercy, gives the kingdom to His precious children, those whom He has purchased by His blood. We pray that we be found in the kingdom which belongs to the Lord. *Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 48 – An Eternal Fortress

The kings of this world can fight against the Lord, but it is a futile fight. For God has set Himself as a fortress upon the mountain. It is a fortress rooted in eternity, protected against every evil, built upon the cornerstone of Christ, and fortified with His blood. Such a fortress can protect her residents not only from kings, but even from the very hordes of hell. Within the citadels of the fortress sounds forth the name of God. It is the name above every name, the name that covers us in our baptism and is placed on us at the blessing, and which will guide us and every generation unto eternity. The Lord bids us to dwell with Him in this mighty fortress, the church, that we would be safe and richly blessed by Him. *Lord, keep me safe in Your fortress for eternity. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 – God Preserves His Temple

The time of Jesus was not the first time the temple needed to be cleansed. Here too, after the ungodly reign of Ahaz, the temple had to be cleansed once again. The Lord raised up the godly king Hezekiah to ensure that the Word of God would continue to be preached and that the sacrifices would continue rightly. This reminds us that the Lord will always preserve His Church. Even when the ungodly come in and invade her walls, even when false teaching and false sacrifices are brought forth, the Lord, who is faithful, will continue to raise up faithful Christians who will rejoice in His Word and call upon His name. And the Lord will always provide a place for them to do so, cleansed by His Word. *Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness to us. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: John 15:17-21 – Not of this World

Simon and Jude were loved by Christ and hated by the world. That hatred didn't manifest immediately, but by about 65 AD, both had been martyred for being Christians. The world hated them, but that is because the world hates Christ. The world hates all Christians for the same reason. Simon and Jude are no different from us in this respect. We are hated by the world but loved by Christ. Because of that, the world will persecute us, but Christ will redeem and save us. He has called us out of the world, that we would dwell with Him for eternity. The world can do its worst, for, as Luther reminds us, “They only usher us more quickly from this life to Christ in heaven.” *Lord, thank You for calling me out of the world to be Yours for eternity. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 – A House of Prayer and Forgiveness

Right at the outset of Jesus' ministry, He cleanses the temple of its usury. He will do so again to mark the end of His ministry also. But as we saw with Hezekiah, this is nothing new for the Lord. He is always concerned about His holy house. He desires that it be a place of prayer, a place where the faithful can always offer up petitions for themselves and their neighbors. A place, also, where they can come and receive from the Lord's hand His mercy and kindness. So, moneylending has no place in the Lord's house. It's not a place where forgiveness is purchased with silver or gold. Rather, it is where forgiveness is purchased with the Lord's own blood and given to all who call upon His name in faith. *Lord, thank You for Your continual mercy. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21 – Justified by Faith

Some may try to take the kingdom by violence, others try and force their way in by works. Both ways fail. We cannot gain an inheritance by works. We cannot be justified by our own hands. And if we try, we will fall short. If my righteousness, my good standing before God, comes by my own obedience, then of what value is Christ? That is the problem with those who try and force their way in. They seek to get into the kingdom by a door other than Christ. But Christ, in His death and resurrection, is the only path by which one may be justified. And God be praised for that! For Christ, in His perfection, has done all things well, including the work of justifying you before the Father. *Lord, thank You for Your work for me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6, 7 – A Gospel without End

The Gospel is eternal. It cannot die. It cannot end. The violent cannot defeat it. The usurpers cannot get around it. The darkness cannot overcome it. It is eternal, existing from beginning to end and beyond. And it is for all; every nation, every tribe, every language, every people. No exceptions. There is none for whom Jesus has not shed His blood. And there is none which will not stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For the Christian, this is a glorious thing, for which we fear and give glory, as we stand judged in Christ to be not guilty of our sins. We stand before the judge and we are set free. And if the Son sets you free you are free indeed. *Lord, thank You for giving to me Your eternal Gospel. Amen.*

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