

“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 98:1-2, 3-4**
 Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Alle- | luia!*
 His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Alle- |
 luia
 His right hand and His | holy arm*
 have gained Him the | victory.
 He has remembered His | mercy*
 and His faithfulness to the house of | Israel.
 All the ends | of the earth*
 have seen the salvation | of our God.
 Shout joyfully to the Lord, | all the earth;*
 break forth in song, rejoice, and sing | praises.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **James 1:17**
 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the
 Father of lights with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Our merciful Father, the God who alone make minds of the faithful to be of one
 will, cause Your people to love what You command and to desire what You
 promise, that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may be fixed
 where true joys are to be found: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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 **Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**
 TLH 387, LSB 556
 Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 With exultation springing,
 And, with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
 Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
 How His right arm the victory won;
 Right dearly it hath cost Him.</p> | <p>4. But God beheld my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
 And, mindful of His mercies great,
 He planned my soul's salvation.
 A father's heart He turned to me,
 Sought my redemption fervently:
 He gave His dearest Treasure.</p> |
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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 Proclaim the Truth

God is a good gift giver. Every good and perfect gift comes from our Father above. In this season of Easter we are reminded of the good gift God the Father gave us in Jesus Christ. Jesus came, lived, died, and has risen. Now Jesus continues to give good gifts. He gives us His Holy Spirit who guides us into all Truth. That is, the Holy Spirit continues to guide and drive Jesus Christ into our hearts, souls and consciences even as Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life for us, His people.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15 Working with Words

God, the Father, always works with Words. Words are the grain of the universe. Because of this He always sends a preacher. Finally, He sends Jesus full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus preaches. Jesus dies. Jesus rises. Now He promises that He will also send His Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit will declare things to us. He will say, "I forgive you," making us holy. He will declare, "I love you," assuring us of our adoptive place. He will declare, "You are mine," separating us from the multitude of unbelievers. We hear these words in the Church, where we receive God's good gifts. God is a good gift giver. *Father, help me to hold onto Your good gifts in Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Absolution as the Spirit wants. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82 Our Power is Jesus

In Exodus 22:8 Moses identifies that the judges in Israel are also called "gods". These are the same people the Psalmist talks about in Psalm 12:4, 10:3, 4:6, who are all defiant and will endure no master because they believe they are "gods" and "lords". Here we learn about the lurking specter power and prestige. No matter if you are poor or wealthy, great or small, child or adult, when you taste power and prestige they will make you drunk with idolatry. Against this the Psalmist asks God to arise and strike the earth with the judgment of His Word of Truth. *Dear God, keep me from fruitless love of power and help me keep firm grasp on Christ. In Him I am strong. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21 God is a Good Gift Giver

God is a good gift giver. This is the first basis for the Christian faith. "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." God is a good gift giver. Trusting in God as a good gift giver keeps us from fruitless pursuits of worldly passion. James tells us that we must be slow to speak, quick to hear, and slow to anger because anger does not produce God's righteousness. Put your trust in God and receive His good gifts with humility and the Holy Spirit will guard your heart and soul. Turn your nose up at God and He will let you fall in your pride. *Holy Father, keep me rooted firmly in the true faith throughout my days and with humility let me received Your Good Gifts well. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6 Jesus is Our Song

There are many days and times when we believe God isn't a good gift giver. We believe we can and will do better. However, in Christ, those days are dusk. The Prophet gives words to us Christians for our days in Christ. In these days of Jesus, God's anger has turned and He gives us comfort. God has given us His Salvation in the concrete. In Christ we draw deeply from the well of Salvation. In Christ we sing eternal praises. Christ the Holy One of Israel is in our midst and He is great. *Dear Father, help me to rest in Christ and all Your good gifts and works for me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36 Do not Be Confused

Confusion is the mark of bad theologians. Jesus isn't confused. He is clear. He is truthful. The people surrounding him are confused. They do not understand. They will not understand. They are putting their trust in their heritage, in the ancestry, in their traditions. Those things will not save. Abraham will not save them. Sinners in the Church are constantly tempted to place their trust in their traditions, heritages, family names, and the like. "We've been coming here for 70 years!" Repent. This will not save you. *Heavenly Father, let my trust and hope always be in Your Son and not traditions and family names. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Selfishness Stinks

St. Paul makes it clear. He is neither goal oriented nor programmatic toward the Church. The Church and Paul's ministry are constrained by Christ. They are driven toward Christ. Christ died to deliver His people from their fatal bondage to themselves. The lingering stink of selfishness is undone by the constant reception of the good gifts of God. "We proclaim Christ's death until He comes" in the Lord's Supper. We remember and receive the good news that Christ died for us, and He was raised for our justification. That is, in Christ's Resurrection our trust in Him is publicly revealed as right. *Dear Jesus, help me rest in You and Your work. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 Patience

This Psalm teaches us to wait patiently for the Lord. The basis for this wait is the remembrance that God has done great things for the people of Israel (vs. 3). These things are the predicate for their hope. We, too, have seen and received good things from our God. In Jesus, God the Father makes us glad. Jesus is far greater than anything Abraham or Moses had. They longed for the day of their Redeemer's salvation. They longed for the church's glorious age in which you live. We have the outcome of their hope, Jesus. He is enough. *Dear Father, teach me contentment in Christ so that I might love what You have given me and be glad. Amen.*