

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 John 8:34-36

“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

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



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.

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.



Around the Word Devotions + April 28-May 4, 2024

“He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth”

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 28-May 4, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Proclaim the Truth

"Cantate Domino novum canticum". "Sing to the Lord a new song." This singing is like that found in Advent 3 (Gaudette) and Lent 4 (Laetare) in that all three have an air of anticipation for what is quickly approaching. In today's case, we are anticipating the coming of both the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday. This anticipation is seen in our Gospel where Jesus connects His going away with the coming of the Helper, the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is the One Who gives us the gifts of God — the means of our salvation in water, bread, wine, and Word, given in the Divine Service. He guards us and keeps us in faith. He works through us to declare that Jesus' cross won forgiveness.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15 These Three: Sin, Righteousness, and Judgement

The Helper Holy Spirit Who proceeds from both Father and Son comes. He convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He does the work of convicting you of your sin with His Law, thereby showing your need for a Savior. He declares into your hearts, by your ears, the Great Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection for those same sins. Lastly, He declares that you, and the world, have been judged — you to salvation in Christ, the world to condemnation for rejection of forgiveness. The Helper Holy Spirit declares Jesus is for you.

Holy Spirit, convict us of sin, redeem us by the righteousness of Christ, and judge us according to Jesus' blood. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82 Judgment of Salvation

"In the midst of the gods He holds judgment." In the midst of the rulers of the nations, God is the One in control. God alone is the One Who holds judgment. We already saw that He sends His Spirit to declare sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the Judging One, not the rulers of this world, who have no knowledge or understanding. He understands all. He knows all and He knows you. He redeemed you by the blood of His Son. On the cross, He has delivered you from the enemies of your soul.

God, keep me in Your judgment of salvation. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21 Righteousness of God

The "good and perfect gifts" are the means by which Jesus declares you sons and daughters, and He does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He makes you His children through His gifts of Baptism, which is water and His Word. His doing. He makes you into His children, His creation. He saves you in His Son, the Word implanted into your souls, which redeems you. In Jesus alone you produce the righteousness of God, for Jesus is the Righteousness of God.

Lord, keep us righteous in Your eyes. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6 God is My Salvation

Isaiah 11 is about the coming "Root of Jesse." That day, the New Testament time of salvation has come for you. His deeds of forgiveness, life, and salvation are made known around the earth. Like ancient Israel, you have been delivered from bondage to sin, death, and the devil. In baptism, you drink from the wells of salvation that produce living water inside of you. God's anger is turned away from your sin and placed upon Jesus on the cross, whereby you are comforted. Strength and song are shown in weakness and death for you.

Jesus, remain the God of my salvation. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36 The Son has Set You Free

Jesus, the Son, has set you free from bondage to sin, death, and the devil. He was lifted upon Calvary where he satisfied God's anger against the world's sin by his spiritual sufferings. Believe in Him and live. He is the Son who took upon Himself the form of a slave so that you would be declared sons of God. Abraham longed for this day of salvation. He witnessed a part of it with Issac upon the mountain. Now it is fulfilled in Christ, the Son Who sets you free. Not partially. Not mostly. You are free and forgiven of all of your sins.

Lord, I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 New Creation

The ministry of reconciliation. Be reconciled to God. How can we do this? By ourselves, we cannot. Only Jesus, Who became sin for us, reconciles us to the Father. He has taken all of your sins and put them to death upon His Cross. He has taken them from you in the lavish flood of Holy Baptism. In the font, He took your sin and you received His righteousness. No more are your sins counted against you. In Jesus, you are a dead and raised, new creation.

Lord, keep us new in You. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 Ascent Lord's Supper

Psalms 120-134 were sung by pilgrims as they journeyed their way up to Jerusalem. They all deal with hardship and oppression in a foreign land that gives way to the blessings found in Zion. For this is us every time we are in the Divine Service. We leave the unbelieving world behind as we journey into the presence of God in His dedicated worship space. We ascend to the Lord's table with tears over our sins, our shame, our deceits, lies, and ugliness. We leave with shouts of joy in the forgiveness of sins because we hear and believe the Lord's gracious promises.

Lord, help us rejoice in Your Supper. Amen.

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