

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;*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Ephesians 4:8

Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

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.



“He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to 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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 24-30, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God

Jesus' resurrection is Jesus' justification. In it, God the Father declares that Jesus was right in all that He did and said. The ascension of Jesus is an extension of His resurrection. Christ is now exalted above every power and authority. Jesus inherits the nations. And so, our Risen Christ sends us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit who gives us joy. He sends pastors so that we might know of His excellent deeds and become a new creation, that is, sons of God. May we rejoice in Christ's resurrection and ascension always!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15: Jesus rises to send us the Comforter

"It is to your advantage that I go away." These words were meant to comfort the sorrowful disciples. It is not that Jesus is an absent Lord; on the contrary, Christ promises that He will be with us always. Christ ascends to the right hand of God, which is everywhere. And yet, Christ doesn't give forgiveness everywhere. The mountains do not proclaim the good news; the fish do not deliver the forgiveness of sins. In order that we might hear the Gospel, the Lord Jesus sends us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit convicts us through the Law and He convinces us through the Gospel. *Lord Jesus, send us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82: Jesus rises to inherit the nations

Psalm 82 is comforting, especially during elections. The authorities are "gods." The governing authorities bear the sword. They are God's avengers. They are exempt from the fifth commandment in order to promote civil righteousness and curb wickedness. The duty of the magistrate is a great responsibility. God will call them to account for their partiality and their wickedness: "But you shall die like men, And fall like one of the princes." While earthly princes fail, Christ prevails. He was crucified as the King of the Jews and now He has arisen to inherit all nations. He shows no partiality, but died for the sins of all. *Jesus, King of Kings, give us good government so that Your Gospel may be preached freely and that wickedness may be curbed. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21: Jesus ascends to give us every good and perfect gift

All good things come from our heavenly Father. He gives good gifts to unworthy sinners. We speak of these great gifts in the fourth petition. And yet, Christ ascended to God's right hand to give us spiritual gifts as well. Remember, Christ would not allow the apostles to preach until they had received the Promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit. This is the Word, planted in the heart and mind, which is able to save our souls. It is by this Word that the Father's will is effected and we become the first fruits of His creatures. *Lord Jesus, thank You for all of Your good and perfect gifts, but we thank You especially for the gift of Your Word. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6: Jesus ascends so that His name is exalted

"For He has done excellent things: This is known in all the earth." This beautiful hymn of Isaiah is a prophecy which is fulfilled in Matthew 28. In the commissioning of His apostles, Jesus makes certain that His name is exalted and that His deeds concerning the redemption of the world are known. By the knowledge of these deeds, faith is kindled. And by faith, we gladly drink from the wells of salvation. We receive the living water, which is the Holy Spirit, as Jesus attests in John 7. By His Word, Christ becomes our Strength, Song, and Salvation. *Lord Jesus, let Your excellent deeds be known, so that You might be our Strength and Salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36: Jesus ascends to give us Sonship

"You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." No one has ascended but He who has descended. The Jews are of this world. This is not the material world, which was declared good by our Triune God. No, this "world" is a life of unbelief, a life lived in sin, a life of sin, a life which ends in eternal damnation. Those of this world are slaves. They are in bondage to slavery. And yet, if Jesus sets them free, then they are free. A son remains forever. And when we are in Jesus, we truly are sons of God and He goes ahead to prepare a place for us. *Lord Jesus, set us free from sin and grant us eternal sonship, Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21: Christ ascends to make us a new creation

"Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer." Jesus is no mere Man; He is the only begotten Son of God. He is the One who died for all and who now lives so that we might be the righteousness of God. By the act of the cross God reconciled Himself to the world through Christ. By the Word, we are reconciled to God. And, more than that, we become a new creation. Before He ascended, Christ sent out His ambassadors of reconciliation, His pastors. And through the preached Word, we become a new creation. *Lord Jesus, send us Your ambassadors of reconciliation, so that we might become a new creation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126: Jesus rises so that we might have joy

"When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream." The immediate context is the release of the Jews from Babylonian tyranny. Indeed, Cyrus decreed that the Jews should return from exile and the nations certainly saw the favor of the Lord God. And this release from exile ought to comfort us as well. For we have been released from the devil's tyranny and we have been brought into the kingdom of Christ Jesus. While we still labor here in sadness and sorrow, we know that Christ will bless our work, so that we return in gladness and joy. *Lord Jesus, turn our sadness into everlasting joy. Amen.*

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