

5 **PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK** Luke 24:5-7, Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9
 He is risen, Alle- | luia!*
 Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!
 Remember how He spoke to you? Alle- | luia!*
 “The Son of Man must be crucified, and the third day rise again.”
 Alleluia! Alle- | luia!
 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in | all the earth,*
 who have set Your glory above the | heavens!
 For You have made Him a little lower than the | angels,*
 and You have crowned Him with glory and | honor.
 You have made Him to have dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
 you have put all things un- | der His feet.
 O | Lord, our Lord,*
 how excellent is Your name in | all the earth!

6 **SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK** Job 19:25
 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

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

8 **PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**
 We implore you, Almighty and merciful God, cause us who celebrate Your Pascal Feast, kindled with heavenly desires, ever to thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ; through the same 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** TLH 195, LSB 458
Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, For our offenses given; But now at God's right hand He stands And brings us life from heaven; Therefore let us joyful be And sing to God right thankfully Loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!</p> | <p>3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us; He died on the accursed tree- So strong His love!-to save us. See, His blood doth mark our door; Faith points to it, Death passes o'er, And Satan cannot harm us. Hallelujah!</p> |
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“He is Risen to Overcome Death”

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 March 27-April 2, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: **He is Risen to Overcome Death**

Christ is risen! This is not just the resounding cry of God's children Easter morning. The resurrection of our Lord is a mark in time that will anchor us to Him in the midst of our own struggles, hurts, and sins. No problem in our lives can unraise Christ. No hurt derail Him. No sin can turn Him away from you. Christ was crucified for our sins, and through His death He conquered death. He is risen! I know that my Redeemer lives. Our own problems may still assault us, and the devil may still attack us, but our Lord is still risen. This resurrection rips the teeth from the ancient lion, Satan. It grants us a Lord who is with us, even in the valley of the shadow of death, that we may fear no evil. Fear gives way to hope. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 16:1-8: He has risen; He is not here.**

I love that Mark was content to end his gospel in fear. Too often we try to measure the validity of our faith by how we feel. If this were really true, then I would never hurt or be afraid. Too often we come up short. Mary felt so afraid she fled. It doesn't mean she has no faith. It doesn't mean what she believes in invalid. An Angel still spoke those three little words. "He has risen." It was for those who hurt, who fear, and even for you. This is a Gospel for us in need. It brings the comfort of Jesus, raised from the grave. *Jesus, let your death and resurrection conquer all which leave us in fear. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 20:1-6: The only God left standing**

God's first commandment strikes fear into the hearts of Christians, but it also shows His love for us. He is "the LORD who brought you out of slavery." He is the LORD who insists on being your God. Yes, you have a list of idols that you fear, love, and trust in more than Him. Every one of them names you a sinner and brings death. The true God will leave nothing standing. He will be the only God to be with you in death, even if it means His own death upon a cross. He will be the only God to rise. He alone will be the Savior, your Savior. *Jesus, unite me in Your death to Sin through the waters of my baptism, that I may rise to stand with You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:51-58: Death is swallowed up in victory**

God creates. Sin destroys. Sin is the source of all pain and suffering, the mother of death, the unmaker. It spreads through our world, breaking everything it touches. Even now it's killing us. I tell you a mystery: Christ bore our sin upon the tree. This Jesus lives, the victory's won! God swallowed up death for you in the victory of the cross. That victory is steadfast and immovable. It is so absolute that even if the universe itself were unmade, Christ would still be risen. We will be like Him. Our mortal bodies will put on immortality. *Jesus Christ, Conqueror of death, clothe us in immortality, that we may never taste the sting of death. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 71:14-24: You have made me see many troubles. You will bring me back up again.**

Psalm 116 seems to contradict itself. First, the psalmist fears the pains of death and the pangs of Sheol. Then, we hear these words, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." How is this to be resolved? Christ has taken away the wrath of God by His death. We no longer need to fear the pains of death and the pangs of Sheol. For those who die in Christ, death becomes gain. Our deaths are precious, for in our deaths our Old Man finally dies for good, and our new man lives even though he dies. May Christ take us to Himself!

Lord Jesus, save us from the pains of death so that our deaths might be precious in Your sight. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 11:11-44: Though we die, yet shall we live.**

Martha's accusation is too familiar. "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." In the face of death, we often wonder where God was, or if He even cares. He cares so much He weeps over each one of us and even bears each death Himself. God was right where He needed to be. Dying on the cross and rising from the dead. He is the resurrection and the life. His is a love so powerful that it reaches across the veil and brings us back to Him. Though we die, yet shall we live. *Lord Jesus Christ, send Your Holy Spirit to keep us in faith, that we who live and believe in You shall never die. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 49:13-16: You are engraved on the palms of My hands**

Christ is risen...but now what? Easter was great, but life was waiting on Monday morning. Nothing changed, no matter how loud we yelled "Alleluia." Our Lord seems far away. Hear His promise. He has not forgotten you. He cannot. You are engraved on the palms of His hands. The risen Christ still bears nail marks that remember you forevermore. He will not abandon you or be apart from you. Even now, He continues to work for you in Word, in Water, in Sacrament, He comforts, forgives, and strengthens even as He ties you to Himself and His life. *Lord Jesus Christ, remember us, that we may always have the peace You offer in Word and Sacrament. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:11-17: Do not weep.**

Easter loses its sparkle. A Widow buries her only son. When Jesus meets her on the road, He doesn't explain why He died. We know the answer: sin. So does she. She is probably more aware of the damage sin does than anyone at this moment. Our Lord tells her, "do not weep." He raises her son to life. He trades places with this man, calling him out of death and volunteering to go instead. Death isn't defeated by an army of angels, but by the Son of God who was crucified and raised. Jesus takes our death and gives us His life. *Lord Jesus Christ, victor over death, wipe away our tears and restore us to life. Amen.*

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