

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 40:20, Psalm 66:1, 17, 19-20**

With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth. Alle- | luia.\*

The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob! Alle- | luia.  
Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!\*

Sing out the honor | of His name.  
I cried to Him | with my mouth,\*  
and He was extolled | with my tongue.  
Certainly God has | heard me;\*  
He has attended to the voice | of my prayer.  
Blessed be God, who has not turned a- | way my prayer,\*  
nor His mer- | cy from me!

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 16:28**

“I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God our Father, from whom all good things do come, grant to us, Your humble servants, that by Your holy inspiration we may think those things that be right and by Your merciful guiding may perform them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, 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  
**Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above**

TLH 458, LSB 766  
Martin Luther



1. Our Father, Thou in heaven above,  
Who hiddest us to dwell in love,  
As brethren of one family,  
To cry in every need to Thee,  
Teach us no thoughtless word to say,  
But from our inmost heart to pray.  
2. Thy name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, In  
purity to keep Thy Word,  
That to the glory of Thy name  
We walk before Thee free from blame. Let no  
false doctrine us pervert;  
All poor, deluded souls convert.

8. From evil, Lord, deliver us:  
The times and days are perilous.  
Redeem us from eternal death,  
And when we yield our dying breath, Console  
us, grant us calm release,  
And take our souls to Thee in peace.  
9. Amen, that is, So shall it be.  
Confirm our faith and hope in Thee  
That we may doubt not, but believe  
What here we ask we shall receive.  
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word  
We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord! Amen!



**“He Ascended Into Heaven”**

**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.



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## Around the Word Devotions + the week of May 1-7, 2016

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Ascended Into Heaven

The week of ascension is a reality check for the church. After dying on the cross to win the forgiveness of sins, and rising from the dead as a sign our faith is not in vain, Jesus ascends into Heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Since we can't see Jesus the way we often wish, the way the disciples did, it's easy to go looking for Him in places He has never promised to be. Instead, He calls us to look to the places He comes to us to deliver the salvation won on the cross: His Word and Sacraments. Here we see Jesus is with us always, even unto the end of the age. Here we find peace in a Jesus who loves us enough to continue to care for us.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 16:23-30: Children of God

God answers our prayers in one of three ways: "yes", "no", or "later." Jesus doesn't say, "Ask, and I'll think about it. You might eventually receive that your joy might be full." It's only confusing when we trust in prayer more than God. Our hope is not in prayer, but God. We pray as dear children who ask their dear father. In baptism, we are children of God. Our joy is not in our prayer, but in our Father who loves us. He gave His Son for you. He will care for you because you are His child. *Our Father, who art in Heaven, care for us, Your baptized children, according to Your will, which was revealed in the passion of Your Son. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84: Third Commandment Gifts

I break the 3rd commandment. Sometimes I don't feel like going to church. The Law shows me my sin, but also points to Christ. He does not command us to worship in order to bring guilt, but peace. My soul longs for the altars of the Lord because it is there. His true Body and Blood wait to forgive my sins, strengthen my faith, and grant me hope. That hour in church (that my old Adam would rather spend sleeping in) is better than a thousand hours in bed. That altar delivers the salvation won on the cross. *O Christ, call and gather us unto the peace that surpasses understanding, delivered upon Your altars. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: James 1:22-27: Our Redeemed Neighbor

It's easy to say "amen" to the crucifixion of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. It's harder to look at the world differently because of the crucifixion. If this forgiveness is a real thing, it ascribes real value to our neighbor! This value isn't based on silver or gold, but the holy precious blood of Jesus. This worth means we look at the world as if God actually redeemed it. We serve each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our neighbors are died for by Jesus, and we serve them as such. If we did not, our religion would be worthless. *Lord, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that through You we might serve our neighbor. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:11-14: God's Plan

The Lord has plans for us. We usually take that to mean the Lord will support us in our own plans. But Jeremiah preached to a people who were in exile. Things weren't going according to plan. God's plan is not to affirm your inner desires, but to save you. God's plan is to be crucified and raised for you, to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep you in the one true faith through His Word and Sacraments. In these we find God and He finds us. There, He reveals His plans for us, to give us a future and a hope: the resurrection. *Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, gather us in, and reveal Your will to save us through Your Holy Word. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Ascension Day: Acts 1:1-11: The Lord's Ascension

Our Lord ascended into heaven. Sometimes He feels very far away. He did not ascend to run away from us, but to be seated at the right hand of the Father, to rule the kingdom He won back from the devil. Our hope is not in an earthly king, but an ascended Lord. Even now He rules, though we don't see it. We look for something flashy, not the simple water of baptism, the humble Divine Service. Yet it is here we see Him beating back the devil and holding captivity captive. God has not abandoned us. Christ also ascended for us. *Lord Jesus, You have promised to remain with us forever. Be with us here, and bring us at last to You. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:24-28: God's Work

God can do something no other power in the universe can. He can work good out of anything. I can take a mess and make it bigger. God takes a mess and makes it a blessing. God can actually work good out of evil. All things work together for your good. This is hard to see, but that is why we hope. Our hope is not in our ability to conquer this world, but in our Lord. His death and resurrection have already won the victory. Your baptism is a seal and promise God will work for your good. It ties you to Christ's victory, and it will bring you to His throne. *Lord, though we know not what to ask, help us in our weakness and work for our good. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124: The Lord is on Your Side

The sign that the Lord is on your side is not your ability to tame this world. There will still be flood, torrent, and raging waters. The sign the Lord is on your side is that He bore all troubles for you. He was subjected to the flood of God's wrath for you. He was swallowed up in death and He is risen. Now, the snares of death are broken, and we have escaped. Our Help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. We wear His name in our baptism. The Lord is on your side. *Lord, teach us to know Your name, given to us in our baptism, as the armor against sin, death, and the devil. Amen.*

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