



“He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy”

5 **PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 66:1-2, 3, 5, 8-9**
 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Alle- | luia.*
 Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Alle- | luia.
 Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!”*
 Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit them-
 | selves to You.
 Come and see the | works of God;*
 He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons of men.
 Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!*
 And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,
 He keeps our soul among the | living,*
 And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

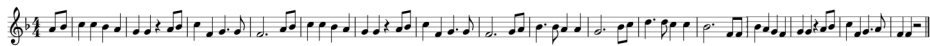
6 **SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Lamentations 3:25 NKJV**
 “The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”

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

8 **PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**
 Almighty and everlasting God, the heavenly Father who shows the light of truth to those who are in error so that they may return into the way of righteousness, cause all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church to avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and to follow all such things that are agreeable thereto; 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 207, LSB 548
Like the Golden Sun Ascending Thomas Kingo



1. Like the golden sun ascending,
 Breaking through the gloom of night,
 On the earth his glory spending
 So that darkness takes to flight,
 Thus my Jesus from the grave
 And Death's dismal, dreadful cave
 Rose triumphant Easter morning
 At the early purple dawning.
2. Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious!
 Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
 Death hath now no power o'er us,
 Thou hast conquered in the strife.
 Thanks because 'Thou didst arise
 And hast opened Paradise!
 None can fully sing the glory
 Of the resurrection story.
4. Thou hast died for my
 transgression,
 All my sins on Thee were laid;
 Thou hast won for me salvation,
 On the cross my debt was paid.
 From the grave I shall arise
 And shall meet Thee in the skies.
 Death itself is transitory;
 I shall lift my head in glory.
6. For the joy Thy advent gave me,
 For Thy holy, precious Word;
 For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,
 For Thy blest Communion board;
 For Thy death, the bitter scorn,
 For Thy resurrection morn,
 Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,
 And in heaven I shall behold Thee.

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 21-27, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Give Us Believing Joy

This week, our meditations center on the transitory nature of this world and the suffering that we Christians endure. But the Lord, Who is risen from the grave, Who is reigning even now by His Gospel, is come that we would have joy and hope in the midst of so many troubles. He will come to judge the earth. We will be vindicated. And He will wipe every tear from every eye.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:16-23c The World will Rejoice

You will weep and lament, says Jesus, but the world will rejoice. The powers of the air, the prince of this world, the devil and all his hoards rejoice at the death of the Son of God, for it seemed that they had won. God had died. In a similar way, the unbelieving people of our world even now delight in the death of God. For it seems to them that they are now gods, capable of choosing for themselves what is good. But the Christian knows better. Our sorrow is turned into joy at the resurrection of Jesus. God is not dead but alive. Hell has not won, but is defeated, and we are citizens of His kingdom. God be praised. *Lord, I thank You for Your resurrection that has brought me so much joy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75 God is Judge

Most in our world are desperately trying to make a name for themselves, trying to make a buck, trying to make it seem like their life matters in some way. It is all just self-justification – the idea that I by my works and effort can vindicate my existence. The psalmist reminds us that exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west, that is, from the powers of this world, but from the Lord. He is judge. The Judge Who is coming does not care what you have done to satisfy your own standards, but His. But also in Christ you have a Judge Who declares you justified, that is righteous not for your works, but for His. *We give thanks to You, O God, for Your wondrous works declare Your name is near. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-20 We are Pilgrims

Peter exhorts his hearers to submit to all manner of earthly authorities and to keep their conduct honorable among unbelievers – *as sojourners and pilgrims*. That is a reminder to us that first, our behavior toward others does have something to do with how God wishes to serve and call others to repentance and faith. And second, that this world is not our home. We are as Christians on pilgrimage to our better home, the reign and kingdom of Christ which is already ours by faith in Christ. *Lord, keep us steadfast throughout our days of pilgrimage, that others may see our works and glorify you because of them. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18-26 Bearing up in Suffering

Our lives, like the prophet's, are full of anguish and suffering. And yet the prophet encourages us to place our hope in the Lord's mercies, which are new every morning. No matter what kind of wormwood and gall afflict you in this present hour of darkness, the Lord comes with fresh mercies at the dawn. His mercy endures forever. Sometimes it is our lot to simply *wait*, to wait quietly for those mercies and salvation to come from the Lord. He will do it. He is faithful. Lord, in You do I hope. *Let me never lose my ability to wait for Your mercies. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 Learning to Trust

The preaching disciples had to learn how to trust. They were to take nothing with them. The necessary tools of comfort and safety – money, bag, extra shoes – were to be left at home. The Lord would provide. Later on He would have the disciples provide for themselves the necessities, but now His lesson needs to be heard and learned; We are to trust in the Lord's provision of daily bread – those things which body and life require. Only when we realize that it is the Lord Who provides do we rightly give thanks for them and trust in the Lord's provision for us. *Lord, I do trust in You. Lead me to trust You more. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16 Our Great High Priest

Jesus is God. But He is also man – our brother. And not only our man and brother, but our high priest. The priest is one who advocates for his people, who goes into the breach for them, who offers up the oblation to God so that His people would not be consumed. Jesus is that eternal high priest who has not offered up the blood of bulls, but His own blood that we would have an eternal redemption. And this high priest is One Who knows us, knows our every weakness, that we would have sympathy and compassion in our sins. Jesus is our High Priest, our Brother, our Advocate, and our God. *Lord, You understand me. Have mercy on me and be my advocate. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 Jesus is King

We are not to put our trust in princes, for on the day of his death all his plans perish with him. Our political heroes, our philanthropists, our media and tech gurus might have something to offer this life, but not eternity. But not so with the Prince of Peace. His plans are eternal and from everlasting, plans not for destruction and conquest, not for temporal alleviation of suffering, but for mercy and love, for eternal salvation and the true healing of the nations. Though dead once, He is living and out of the grave and now all kings and princes of the earth are to pay Him homage. His plans do not perish for He perishes no more. *Lord, help me to not trust the men of this world, but only You for all eternal good. Amen.*

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