

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 **Isaiah 12:2**

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the
 LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.”

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 + May 18-24, 2025

“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 May 18-24, 2025

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

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The joy and light of the Lord's resurrection continues to enlighten our hearts and minds this week. The Scripture passages selected this week put before us the tremendous gifts of God for us. God gives us His Spirit, His righteousness, His deliverance, His freedom, His forgiveness, and His enduring promise of everlasting life with Him. God be praised!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 16:5-15 "The Advantage of Jesus Departure"

The night before the crucifixion Jesus tells His disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away." How could that possibly be the case? What could be better than having Jesus there with them? "If I depart, I will send Him to you." Who? The Holy Spirit, here called the Parakletos in Greek, the Comforter, the Helper, or (best) the Advocate who will bring about faith in your heart and peace in your conscience. He will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and He will guide the church into all truth. This is the advantage, and we have it. We are born of water and the Spirit, and Jesus has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who are baptized. *O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82 "Gods Among Mere Mortals...Or Not"

The Lord establishes earthly authorities. The purpose is the preservation of this world by means of the Law—just judgments, protection from wickedness, and upholding what is good. But civil righteousness and human authority will never save this world. Only the Gospel does that. God, pictured in this Psalm as sitting in the midst of a council of kings whom He addresses as "gods," gives a vivid reminder: even the kings die like any other mortal man. Let us never put our faith in this world's authorities, even as we honor them. *Lord, save Your people and bless those You have placed over us. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: James 1:16-21 "The Implanted Word"

We are sure that we can save our souls, or that our good works or good nature can save our souls, but this is a lie. We are, at our best, vanity, and at our worst the enemies of God and everything holy. No, we cannot save ourselves, but Jesus can save us. That is His vocation: Savior. He speaks His Word for this very reason: to save and rescue us from our sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. So James warns us to put aside wickedness and anger, and to humbly receive this Word "which is able to save your souls." That word is implanted in our hearts in our baptism, in our hearing the Word and promises. *O Lord, thank You for putting Your Word of life into my dying heart. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1-6 "God Is Not Angry?"

If the righteousness of our anger must be questioned, the Lord's must not. It is no surprise to learn that He is justly wrathful at our sins: it is a great surprise to discover that He is gracious to us in Jesus Christ, turning from His anger, and instead comforting us by being our salvation instead of our doom. This is the new song of the Church, which had already begun in the voice of the prophets. The Lord has entered our midst not in wrath but in peace, working salvation for those who have not deserved it. His grace is the cause of our great joy. *Lord, You are my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:21-36 "The Necessity for Jesus to Die"

Jesus, in our text, reveals the necessity of His death. He tells the Jews arguing with Him that they will know the truth of what Jesus says when He is lifted up. We know that He was lifted up by the cross. At the cross and the empty tomb we see the truth of all Jesus said. From the events of His crucifixion with the darkness and the earthquake to His physical resurrection, it all becomes clear Jesus truly is God and has been sent by His Father. It was necessary for Jesus to die so that we might see His truth and glory, which shines even into our day and into eternity. *O Lord, I praise You for Your dying for me and rising again. Through Your blood, I am healed and forgiven. Grant that I may see Your glory all my days. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 "One Died For All"

What a great exchange! The sinless One bears our sins so that we might have the righteousness of God. The One Who is Life tastes our death so that we could have life eternal. The One Who is strong to save is made weak so that we would stand forever. Christ is forsaken by God so that we would never be abandoned or forgotten. By His stripes we are healed. God be praised! Our trespasses are imputed to Him, not to us! His holiness and perfection are given to us as a gift. He is the First-fruits, and we are part of His New Creation and eternal kingdom. *O Lord we thank You for bearing our sin, and granting us Your righteousness. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 "Out With Tears, In With Joy"

The Lord turns things around, and this Psalm praises Him for it. Sowing with tears; reaping with joy. Going forth with weeping; returning rejoicing. He brings us out of captivity. He delivers from bondage. He transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of the light of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Egypt is behind us. Babylon is long ago. The grave is broken: its power spoiled. Jesus' death and resurrection are our deliverance, and it fills our mouths with laughter and sets our tongue to song. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! *O Lord Jesus, thank You for turning things around, for bringing us through this life to life eternal. Amen.*

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