

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Prayer of Azariah 1:4, 7, 20, 19; Psalm 48:1, 9-11

The Lord is righteous in all His / works toward us,\*  
for we have not obeyed His com- / mandments.  
Glorify Your / Name, O Lord:\*  
and deal with us according to Your great / mercy.  
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised\*  
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.  
We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,\*  
in the midst of Your / temple.  
According to Your / name, O God,\*  
so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth;  
Your right hand is full of / righteousness.\*  
Let Mount Zion rejoice, Because of Your / judgments.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 John 2:17  
“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Grant, we implore You, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness** TLH 305, LSB 636  
Johann Franck



1. Soul, adorn thyself with gladness,  
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;  
Come into the daylight's splendor,  
There with joy thy praises render  
Unto Him whose grace unbounded  
Hath this wondrous supper founded.  
High o'er all the heavens He reigneth,  
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

8. Lord, by love and mercy driven  
Thou hast left Thy throne in heaven  
On the cross for us to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Thy blood in sadness.  
By this blood, redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise Thee with thanksgiving.

7. Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,  
Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender,  
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring, --  
At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Thy glory, given.



“Resisting the Flesh At Home in the World”

**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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Flesh At Home in the World

“Of Thy mystical supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a partaker.” This prayer from the Liturgy of Holy Thursday reflects the posture of the faithful guests in the Gospel reading for Trinity 20. We dare not presume upon His grace by right, as the world tempts us to do. Rather, resisting the temptations of the flesh, we talk and eat with our Host by grace alone. This week’s lessons describe your life at God’s end-times banquet table—a place of severe judgment for the self-righteous, but a foretaste of heaven for the penitent. As the hymn puts it:

“Through the gift of grace You give me, as Your guest in heav’n receive me” (LSB 636.8).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:1-14 The Parable of the Wedding Feast

See how everything is provided for the faithful in the great wedding feast salvation! The universal invitation, the (baptismal) robe of righteousness, the (sacramental) food and drink—everything is prepared and all are invited to dine with the heavenly King! But the King’s banquet also has a note of the Law. The ones who refused His invitation and the man who presumed to attend without the robe of righteousness remind you of your need to be stripped of the tethered garments of your own righteousness through repentance. Only then are you prepared to talk and eat in His presence. Welcome home! *At Your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, Your glory, given (LSB 636.6). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: INTRODUCTION to Psalm 119, twentieth part (RESH v153-160)

Oh, the dearth of secularized higher education today! Diversity, equity, and inclusion have sidelined truth, beauty, and goodness. Psalm 119 is a pilgrim’s psalm for the journey to Jerusalem, but this eight-verse strophe is also a perfect ‘introit’ for those who are attending a secular university in pursuit of one truth. Here you join the psalmist to rebuke the wicked (v. 155) and your adversaries (v. 157) and to look at them with disgust (v. 158). And clinging to God’s scriptural Word (law, promise, statutes, etc.) you take refuge in the good news that His incarnate Word is the way, the truth (v. 160), and the life. *Faith and truth and life bestowing, open now the Scriptures, Lord, seed to life eternal sowing, scattered on the wind abroad (LSB 584.1). Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:15-21 Walking in Wisdom, Postmarked Ephesus

You are baptized. Now what? Two key words in Paul’s writings describe the shape of your Christian life: *walking* and *wisdom*. The subsequent verbs in this reading describe how Christ leads you to walk in His wisdom. *Redeem* the time God has given to you in this world, for it will pass away. *Do not* be foolish or get drunk with wine, as the sinful flesh tempts you to do. Rather, *understand* that God’s will is for you to walk in His wisdom. *Be filled* with the Spirit, especially as you *sing* the good news about Jesus. And always *give thanks* to the Father, *submitting* to one another in Christ. It’s just what God’s children do. *O God, for-sake me not! Lord, hear my supplication! In ev’ry evil hour help me resist temptation (LSB 731.3). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 65:1, 2 Thundering Judgment, Preaching Salvation

Hear, O Beloved, the full strength of the Law and the full consolation of the Gospel from Isaiah. Following Isaiah’s lament over Israel’s impenitence (63:7–64:12), he announces judgement on the Gentiles (v. 1) and rebellious Israel (v. 2), who did not ask, seek, or knock according to God’s invitation, even though He was ready to be found. This is the very judgment that you yourself deserve. But keep reading through the end of chapter 66 to discover the new creation, where you freely ask the Father for His salvation, seek the Son in the means of grace, and knock on the very doors of heaven according to the Spirit. *O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation . . . Come, mighty judge, and set us free from death and ev’ry evil (LSB 508.7). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:28-44 Three Sons and a Cornerstone

Of the three sons in this reading, you might be left wondering which of the first two sons is the good son and which one is “that other one.” After all, the first son walked the walk, but didn’t talk the talk. Conversely the second son talked the talk, but didn’t walk the walk. Both sons remind you that your sinful flesh denies your baptismal sonship and your need to repent. See how life and salvation come only through the third Son. He came to His Father’s own, who rejected and crucified Him. Risen from the dead, He crushes all who persist in unbelief. But for you who believe, Christ is the cornerstone of your faith and life. *Watch o’er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy, save it from evil, guard it still . . . cleansed and conformed unto Thy will (LSB 652.1). Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 The Sending of the Seventy(-two)

Today the church remembers St. Luke the Evangelist. Of the four Gospel writers, St. Luke has the strongest focus on the historicity of Jesus’ life and work, coupled with an emphasis on the healing power of the Gospel, as befits a physician. Was St. Luke one of the seventy(-two)? Maybe so. In any event, today’s reading encompasses both aspects of Luke’s Gospel. The historical details are striking, including how the Lord provided for their every need and how they were to react to impenitent cities. But among the penitent, they healed the sick and proclaimed the presence of the kingdom of God. And so we pray, *Your wine and oil, O Savior, upon our spirits pour. And with true balm of Gilead anoint us evermore (LSB 518.26). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: INTRODUCTION to Psalm 57, God’s Glory Over All the Earth

As you pray this psalm, see how God is glorified as the faithful trust in Him (vss. 1–6) and glorify Him (vss. 7–11), even in the midst of trials. Here David, taking refuge in a cave, prayed Psalm 57 against the pursuit of jealous Saul and trusted in God to “send from heaven and save [him]” (v. 3). Christ prayed it in anticipation of His suffering, knowing that His enemies would set a net for him, only to be ensnared in their own trap (v. 6). And you pray this psalm in your own suffering, lifting your eyes to heaven until you “awake with the dawn” and “sing praise to [God] among the nations” (v. 8–9) forevermore. *Creator, humbly I implore You to listen to my earthly song . . . And learn with choirs of heav’n to sing eternal anthems to my King (LSB 811.5). Amen.*

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