

“The Blessedness of the Saints of God”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Revelation 12:11; Psalm 33:1, 13-15

They overcame him by the blood / of the Lamb*
 and by the word of their testi- / mony,
 They did not / love their lives*
 even / unto death.
 Rejoice in the Lord, O you / righteous!*
 For praise from the upright is / beautiful.
 The Lord looks from / heaven;*
 He sees all the / sons of men.
 From the place of His dwell- / ing He looks*
 on all the inhabitants / of the earth;
 He fashions their hearts indi- / vidually;*
 He considers / all their works.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Revelation 7:9-10

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O almighty God, who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys that you have prepared for those who unfeignedly love You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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
Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation

TLH 466
 Author Unknown



1. Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
 Thou the Head and Corner-stone;
 Chosen of the Lord and precious
 Binding all the Church in one;
 Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
 And her Confidence alone.

2. To this temple, where we call Thee,
 Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
 With Thy wonted loving-kindness
 Hear Thy servants as they pray
 And Thy fullest benediction
 Shed within these walls always.

3. Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
 What they ask of Thee to gain,
 What they gain from Thee forever
 With the blessed to retain,
 And hereafter in Thy glory,
 Evermore with Thee to reign.

4. Praise and honor to the Father,
 Praise and honor to the Son,
 Praise and honor to the Spirit,
 Ever Three and ever One,
 One in might and one in glory,
 While unending ages run.

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 November 3-9, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Blessedness of the Saints of God

This week, we begin by being reminded of Christ's blessings. We receive them by faith. As the week goes on, we have opportunities to see how God acts mightily for the sake of His people. Through faith in Christ, we find immeasurable comfort. This blessing isn't just for me, it's for all people. Our faith is always rooted in Christ, Who suffered and died for us, that we would be His people. And because of that, we are numbered among the saints that stretches across time.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are You

Many of us have read these words from our Lord many times. There is no shortage of commentary on what each element of the beatitudes means and how it connects to the life of the Christian, and rightly so. But notice the turn that Jesus takes in verse 11. He is no longer talking about other groups of people, or speaking in generalities. No, He says, blessed are you. And when are you blessed? When you suffer for the sake of your faith. When you suffer the hatred and scorn of a world that hates our Lord. On this day, as we reflect on all those who have gone before us, we can rejoice for all those who have made the good confession and pray that we may have their same courage to stand firm in the time of trial. *O Lord, grant that I may faithfully hold to Your name even in the midst of suffering, for You are with me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 125 Steadfast in Faith

This Psalm is a wonderful continuation of yesterday's text. While there will be suffering in this life, those who have faith are blessed by God. This faith that is given to us as a free gift from God strengthens us. Those who trust in the Lord are like mountains because our faith often becomes more certain as it is challenged. Even this strength is a gift because those who abandon it and turn away from God are led away into the paths of the evildoers. But for us who remain steadfast in our faith, we are surrounded by God's grace and mercy so that no evil can assail us forever. *O Lord, hold me in Your hands as Your own dear child that I may be protected from the assaults of the evil one. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:2-17 The Church Triumphant

This vision that the Apostle John received brings great comfort to us as Christians. There are those who have incorrectly claimed that the number of those allowed in heaven in 144,000 based on this text. But notice that in the very next verse, John sees the multitude that no one can number. This is the gathering of all the faithful who have gone before. By God's grace, this includes you and me. Our God is truly the God of all creation, and He calls all people to Himself. He desires all people to call upon Him and have the faith in Christ that makes them steadfast like mountains in His promises. By His mercy, may we all be counted among this multitude! *O Lord, sustain me in this true faith that You have given me now and into eternity. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 51:9-16 "You are my people"

How comforting it is to hear God remind us that we are His people! He, Who laid the foundations of the earth and defeated the foes of His people. In this text, "Rahab" is not speaking of the woman who sheltered the spies of Israel, but it is also a word that is used for prideful arrogance and was also used in connection to Egypt, which is how Isaiah uses it here. Isaiah draws the people back to God's work in the Exodus and we today are drawn to God's saving work on the cross. Through Christ being pierced, it was the dragon (the devil) who has been defeated. For this, we have joy in the redemption won for us. *O Lord, You have indeed defeated Your enemies and have given the spoils of Your victory to me. Grant that I may remain faithful and praise You always. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:18-26 Laughing at Jesus

We began this week hearing Jesus' message of blessing for those who are mocked for bearing His name. This may seem strange. Yet, the Gospels show us a number of times when Jesus is scoffed at, scorned, and mocked. In the text before us today, we see Jesus going to raise a girl from the dead and He is mocked by the crowd. He said that she was merely sleeping, which sounded crazy. Yet, just as the woman with the bleeding disorder is healed because she had faith, so also is the faith of the girl's parents rewarded. The faith that we have been given may cause us to be mocked by the world, yet that same faith in Christ is how we receive the blessings that God graciously gives to us. *Almighty God, strengthen my faith that I may continue to receive Your gifts. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-14 Sharing in the Inheritance

This text is a great illustration of the point made yesterday. It is by faith in Jesus Christ that we receive the blessings of God, being filled with wisdom and understanding, bearing fruit, and the rest of the things spoken of by St. Paul here. But we must remember that this faith is not the product of our own action or work, but it is itself a gift given by God. This is why St. Paul can say that the Father qualifies us to have a share in the inheritance of the saints. Those who have gone before us have shared in this faith. Truly, this faith unites us not only with God, but also with one another and the whole Church throughout time. We share this inheritance together. *O Lord, thank You for the unity You create among Your people and for granting me a share in this wonderful gift. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18:1-19 A Fearsome God

Often, we think of God as our friend. Indeed, in Christ, He is. Yet, we must also remember that God is not like one of our human friends who is very much like us. In this Psalm, David reminds us of the power and majesty of God. He is truly a terrifying figure in this Psalm. And yet, His wrath is not directed against His people. No, His wrath is directed against those who would harm His servant. It is for this reason that David can praise God as His shield, rock, and refuge. It is also why we can say the same thing. We do not need to fear God's wrath because in Christ, the Father hears our calls of distress and acts to save us. Indeed, He has already saved us. *O Lord, thank You for saving me from the powers of death and hell. Grant me rest in You as my shield and fortress. Amen.*

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