

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

Lutheran Service Book 668, Lutheran Worship 303, The Lutheran Hymnal 444



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em-ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure And bold - ly strive for
3 Wise - ly fight, for time is fleet - ing; The hours of grace are



7 foe de-stroy you; For Sa - tan has de-signed your fall.
heav'n-ly trea - sure. Be stead-fast in the Sav - ior's might.
fast re - treat - ing; Short, short is this our earth - ly way.



Wield God's Word, the weap - on glo - rious; A - gainst all foes be
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, For Je - sus from all
When the Lord the dead will wak - en And sin - ners all by



thus vic - to - rious, For God pro-pects you from them all.
harm will hide you. By faith you con-quer in the fight.
fear are shak - en, The saints with joy will greet that day.



Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Em - man - u - el.
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!
Praise God, our tri-umph's sure. We need not long en-dure



Hail the Sav - ior! The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield,
Joy a - waits you. The race well run, Your long war won,
Scorn and tri - al. Our Sav - ior King His own will bring



Public domain

L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 119:145–149; antiphon Psalm 50:15

L Call upon me in the day of trouble;
 I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

C With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!
 I will keep your statutes.

L I call to you; save me,
 that I may observe your testimonies.

C I rise before dawn and cry for help;
 I hope in your words.

L My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
 that I may meditate on your promise.

C Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;
 O Lord, according to your justice give me life.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L Call upon me in the day of trouble;
 I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Kyrie

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Christ, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”

³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.

- L** How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,
- C** **who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.**
- L** Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
- C** **and their words to the ends of the world.**

Psalm 138

- L** ¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
- C** ²**I bow down toward your holy temple**
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.
- L** ³On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.
- C** ⁴**All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,**
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
- L** ⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
- C** ⁶**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.**
- L** ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.
- C** ⁸**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.
- C** **Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.**

Luke 11:1–13

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

C 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.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 770, Lutheran Worship 516, The Lutheran Hymnal 457



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

Public domain

Devotional thoughts:

One of the unexpected joys of ministry has been teaching confirmation classes. (The trendy name for this among younger pastors is catechesis.) Every fall, bright, shining, shy faces opened their brand-new Bibles and catechisms. They sat quietly, not knowing what to expect from this gentleman who people called Pastor.

I introduced myself to them and explained what the Bible is and how our English translations came to be. Throughout the following months, we reviewed the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine from Luther's Small Catechism. Can you list them? They are the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession, and finally, The Lord's Supper.

As the weeks progressed, my confirmation students became less shy. In fact, they could sometimes be described as rambunctious. Rambunctious is defined as uncontrollably exuberant, boisterous, unrestrained, or irrepressible. Somehow, we managed.

As the students became more accustomed to their old pastor, they would ask questions. Seventh and eighth grade is a wonderful time to teach religion to children. At that age, they are beginning to think deep thoughts and have weighty questions. Most of the questions were ones that I had heard before. Sometimes I would become exuberant when one particularly thoughtful student asked something new.

All of this came to mind as I read the Gospel lesson for today. One of Jesus' students said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Jesus had already taught the prayer that we know as the Lord's Prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:9-13). But this disciple didn't know that. So Jesus patiently responded, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation."

I imagine that this was not the last time that Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer. He went from town to town teaching new students every place He went. It must have been like teaching confirmation class. He taught the same lessons over and over.

I once had an adult student from another denomination make the statement that Jesus' didn't want us to pray the Lord's Prayer. He wanted it to be a model prayer for Christians. To make his point, he quoted to me Matthew 6:9, "Pray then like this." He then told me Jesus didn't tell us to say those exact words.

On that day, God granted me a quick response. I asked the gentleman to read Luke 11:9. Here Jesus clearly says, "When you pray, say." Jesus did expect us to pray the Lord's Prayer word for word. It is the most uniting prayer among Christians.

On the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, there is a church dedicated to the Lord's Prayer. It is formally known as The Church of the Pater Noster. On its walls are plaques of the Lord's Prayer in well over 100 different languages and dialects.

Did you notice how well our themes from last week and this week work together? Last week we thought about how God speaks to us in His word. This week our theme is how we speak to God through prayer.

Indeed, the Lord's Prayer can be abused as can any prayer. People sometimes mumble it as they thoughtlessly recite the words. The Lord's Prayer, like every prayer, should be prayed from the heart.

These are the very words that Jesus taught us to pray. When you study the Lord's Prayer, you learn that it encompasses every prayer that Christians offer.

Prayer is a great privilege. Because Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, we can approach God directly with our words and thoughts. God promises to always hear and answer our prayers.

How does He answer? Sometimes He says, "Yes." Sometimes He says, "No." Sometimes He says, "Have patience and wait a little longer."

He has answered all of our prayers in the person of Jesus. In Him, we have eternal life and salvation.

The final petition of the Lord's Prayer in the King James Version is "deliver us from evil."

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven (From Luther's Small Catechism).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

L Heavenly Father, Jesus taught us to pray that Your name should be hallowed and Your kingdom come. He also directed us to pray for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us trusting hearts that pray to You in times of joy or sorrow.

C Amen.

L Gracious Lord, Your Jesus prays on behalf of sinners before Your throne. When our sin troubles us, grant that we would be drawn in repentance to His cross and seek shelter in His mercy through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from illness. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

C Amen.

C 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.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lutheran Service Book 790, Lutheran Worship 444, The Lutheran Hymnal 39



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.

- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Public domain

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Some liturgical portions are adapted from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Lutheran Service Book License: 10002731 Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Michigan

Hymns are in the public domain. The remainder of this work including adaptations and the Devotional thoughts © 2022 Philip G. Quardokus. All rights reserved.

Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 25 – July 30, 2022

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Introit Psalm 119:145–149; antiphon Psalm 50:15

- L** Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.
- C** With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!
I will keep your statutes.
- L** I call to you; save me,
that I may observe your testimonies.
- C** I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I hope in your words.
- L** My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.
- C** Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;
O Lord, according to your justice give me life.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- L** Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

In Psalm 50:15, God tells us, “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” God especially wants to hear from us when we have troubles. Unfortunately, for some, this is the only time that God hears from them.

The Apostle Paul tells us, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The entire life of a Christian should be one of prayer. It should come to us as naturally as breathing. But it is something that needs to be taught and practiced.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. He also demonstrated to them the importance of prayer by taking time to pray in private. He also prayed publicly for those around Him to hear. His High Priestly Prayer in John 17 is an example.

Sometimes, God may allow trouble to come into our lives to move us to prayer. Our heavenly Father is always there waiting to hear from us.

One of the most comforting prayers is this prayer offered by Jesus from the cross, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34). We can boldly come to God in prayer because of the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross. There are no longer any obstacles between us and God!

Call upon God in the day of trouble and in all other circumstances!

- C** 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.

Tuesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Have you ever considered that God does not have to listen to our prayers? There is nothing about us that can force God to hear and answer our prayers. God listens to our prayers simply out of His mercy and grace.

Sin is a great obstacle to prayer. Why would a holy God listen to rebellious people? There is only one answer, “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son” (John 3:16). God listens to our prayers because Jesus removed every barrier between us and God when He died on the cross.

In the Old Testament, the priest offered prayers and sacrifices for the people. Now, we are privileged to go directly to God with every concern. When Jesus died on the cross, the temple of the curtain was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). We now have complete access to the Mercy Seat of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray: O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

L Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Psalm 138

L ¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

C ²**I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**

L ³On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

C ⁴**All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

L ⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

C ⁶**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.**

L ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

C ⁸**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

King David writes, “On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.” When we neglect to call upon God, our souls suffer! David prayed and the strength of his soul increased!

Contrary to popular opinion, self-reliance is not a positive thing. David was the king of a mighty nation. Every time that he tried to rely on his own cleverness and strength, things did not go well for him.

Christian people know that we rely on God for every blessing of body and soul. It is good to have skills and wisdom. It is advantageous for us to use them to find success in the world. But it is never good to do this without calling upon God and seeking His aid.

Relying on God for every earthly blessing does not mean avoiding hard work and effort hoping that God will open the windows of heaven to shower wealth and happiness upon us. It means fulfilling our vocations knowing that any success that we experience is a gift from God.

C 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.

Thursday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

L Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”

³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

As I read this account of Abraham interceding on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah, I was reminded of this passage from James, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16 KJV).

Abraham did not hesitate to pray for God to spare these cities. He was concerned for his nephew Lot and his family.

In his discussion with the Lord, Abraham asked God not to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for the sake of righteous residents. He started by asking about fifty and worked his way down to ten. Unfortunately, ten righteous residents could not be found in these wicked cities. But Abraham's prayer did not fall upon deaf ears. God rescued Lot and his family.

This account should remind us of the importance of intercessory prayer. Sometimes, I become so concerned with my own problems that I forget to pray for others.

Lot was saved because Abraham prayed. Consider the people that you know and love. Pray for them regularly. God will hear and answer your prayers.

C 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.

Friday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

L Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C Have Mercy on us.**

L O Christ, **C Have Mercy on us.**

L O Lord, **C Have Mercy on us.**

Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

This small portion of Colossians deserves a week's worth of consideration. The Apostle Paul tells us so much in these few words.

Chief among the topics that He covers is Baptism. He teaches us that in baptism we were connected to Jesus' death and resurrection!

Being connected to Jesus' death and resurrection means that we are no longer dead in our trespasses and sins! We are alive in Christ because our sins have been forgiven! The debt of our sin has been canceled by nailing it to the cross!

Like many people, through most of my life, I have been burdened with financial difficulties. House payments, car payments, utility bills, groceries, etc consumed all of my income. Sometimes the weight was almost overwhelming. I can imagine the joy that I would have felt if someone had walked up to me and said that all of my debt was canceled and all of my bills were paid.

This is what happened to the debt of my sin. Everything that I owe to God but cannot pay has been paid by Jesus. The wealth of His sacrifice on the cross has become mine through baptism. There is nothing more wonderful than this!

C 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.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Gradual Romans 10:8b, 10

L The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,

C the word of faith that we proclaim.

L For with the heart one believes and is justified,

C and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Verse of the Day: Luke 11:9

L Alleluia, Alleluia. I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia. knock, and it will be opened to you. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Luke 11:11–13

¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

This last little portion of our Gospel lesson could be easily overlooked this week. But let's take a moment and think about it.

Jesus' example of an earthly father's care and concern for his son resonates with me. I would have never given my children something that I knew was harmful. In fact, I always wished that I could give them more than I was able to afford.

If this is the case for me, our heavenly Father who owns the entire universe can give us much more. The Apostle Paul says it this way, He “is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).

So what is the greatest gift that God is able to give us? Is it a winning lottery ticket? Is it a large house or an expensive car? No. The greatest gift that God gives us is the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit comes to us through word and sacrament. He brings us to repentance and gives us faith! By the working of the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of life and salvation that Jesus won for us on the cross.

Pray for God to strengthen your faith through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Attend to His word and sacraments so that He may effectively work in your life.

☛ 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.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Enhancing Your Worship © 2022 Philip G. Quardokus. All rights reserved.