

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Text: Public domain



2025

[illegible]

Start Every Day

recite **APOSTLE'S CREED**

12

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

VERSE: Galatians 3:27 ***“For as many as you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”***

PRAYER of the WORD

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
 “It’s time to have compassion.
 Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
 And bring to all salvation.
 From sin and sorrow set them free;
 Slay bitter death for them that they
 May live with You forever.”
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father’s will,
 Was born of virgin mother;
 And God’s good pleasure to fulfill,
 He came to be my brother.
 His royal pow’r disguised He bore;
 A servant’s form, like mine, He wore
 To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me,
 I am your rock and castle.
 Your ransom I Myself will be;
 For you I strive and wrestle.
 For I am yours, and you are Mine,
 And where I am you may remain;
 The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,
 Me of My life bereaving,
 All this I suffer for your good;
 Be steadfast and believing.
 Life will from death the vict’ry win;
 My innocence shall bear your sin,
 And you are blest forever.
- 9 “Now to My Father I depart,
 From earth to heav’n ascending,
 And, heav’nly wisdom to impart,
 The Holy Spirit sending;
 In trouble He will comfort you
 And teach you always to be true
 And into truth shall guide you.

Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe
may have no power over me. Amen.

556 DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

Sunday, May 25

- Read **Psalm 141** (O YHWH, I call upon you; hasten to me!)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: Philippians 1-2**

GREGORY OF ELVIRA: (Philippians 2:7) We do not believe that he was so emptied that he himself as Spirit became something else. Rather he, having put aside for this time the honor of his majesty, put on a human body. Only by assuming human form could he become the Savior of humanity. Note that when the sun is covered by a cloud its brilliance is suppressed but not darkened. The sun's light, which is suffused throughout the whole earth, penetrating all with its brilliant splendor, is presently obscured by a small obstruction of cloud but not taken away. So too that man, whom our Lord Jesus Christ put on, being our Savior, which means God and the Son of God, does not lessen but momentarily hides the divinity in him. ON THE FAITH 88–89.¹

Monday, May 26

- Read **Psalm 142** (With my voice I cry out to YHWH; with my voice I plead for mercy to YHWH.)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: Philippians 3-4**

¹ Edwards, M. J., ed. 1999. [*Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

TERTULLIAN: (Philippians 3:21) If Christ coming from heaven will “transform the body of our humiliation into conformity with the body of his glory,” then this body of ours, which is humbled by sufferings and cast down into the earth by the very law of death, is the very body that will rise. For how will it be transformed if there is nothing? **AGAINST MARCION** 5.20.7.²

Tuesday, May 27

- Read **Psalm 143** (Hear my prayer, O YHWH; give ear to my pleas for mercy!.)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: Colossians 1-2**

TERTULLIAN: (Colossians 1:15) It is fortunate that in another passage [the apostle] calls Christ “the image of the invisible God.” For does it not follow with equal force from that passage that Christ is not truly God, because the apostle describes him as *the image* of God? This is true, if (as Marcion contends) he is not truly man because he has taken on *the form* or *image* of a man. For in both cases the true substance will have to be excluded, if *image* (or “fashion”) and *likeness* and *form* are descriptions of a phantom. But since he is truly God as the Son of the Father, in his fashion and image, he has been already by the force of this conclusion determined to be truly man, as the Son of man,

² Edwards, M. J., ed. 1999. [Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Read **Psalm 148** (Hallelujah! Praise YHWH from the heavens)
- Read **History Book: Joshua 1-5**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for Sixth Sunday of Easter*

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

***pray* LORD’S PRAYER**

Luther’s Morning Prayer

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.

Luther’s Evening Prayer

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.

ATHANASIUS: (2 Thessalonians 2:1) And further, not to know when the end is, or when the day of the end will occur, is actually a good thing. If people knew the time of the end, they might begin to ignore the present time as they waited for the end days. They might well begin to argue that they should only focus on themselves. Therefore, God has also remained silent concerning the time of our death. If people knew the day of their death, they would immediately begin to neglect themselves for the greater part of their lifetime. The Word, then, has concealed both the end of all things and the time of our own death from us, for in the end of all is the end of each, and in the end of each the end of all is comprehended. This is so that, when things remain uncertain and always in prospect, we advance day by day as if summoned, reaching forward to the things before us and forgetting the things behind. ... The Lord, then, knowing what is good for us beyond ourselves, thus stabilized the disciples in a correct understanding. They, being taught, set right those of Thessalonica, who were likely to err on the very same point. DISCOURSES AGAINST THE ARIANS 3.49–50.⁷

Sunday, June 1

⁷ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

“found in the fashion” and image “of a man.”
AGAINST MARCION 5.20.³

Wednesday, May 28

- Read ***Psalm 144*** (Blessed by YHWH, my rock.)
- Read ***Pauline Epistles: Colossians 3-4***

CHRYSOSTOM: (Colossians 3:1) See the wisdom of our teacher and to what a height he immediately raises those who listen to him. He cut a path through the midst of all the angels, archangels, thrones, dominations, principalities, virtues, all those invisible powers, the cherubim and seraphim and set the thoughts of the faithful right before the very throne of the King. By his teaching he has persuaded those who walk the earth to sever the bonds of the body, to take flight and to stand in spirit by the side of him who is the Lord of all. BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTIONS 7.20.⁴

Thursday, May 29

³ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁴ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Read **Psalm 145** (I will extol you, my God and king, and bless your name forever.)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: 1 Thess. 1-3**

CHRYSOSTOM: (1 Thessalonians 1:6) “With joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,” Paul says. So that no one can say, “How can you speak of affliction and of joy in the same breath?” he adds, “inspired by the Holy Spirit.” The affliction pertains to the body, and the joy to things spiritual. But how? The things that happened to them were burdensome, but not so the things that sprang up out of them, for the Spirit does not allow it. So then, it is possible for one who suffers not to rejoice when he is suffering for his sins but nevertheless to experience pleasure when he is being beaten and suffers for Christ’s sake. For such is the joy of the Spirit. In return for the things which seem to be burdensome, the Spirit brings delight. They have afflicted you, he says, and persecuted you, but the Spirit did not forsake you even in those circumstances. HOMILIES ON 1 THESSALONIANS 1.⁵

Friday, May 30

- Read **Psalm 146** (Hallelujah! Praise YHWH, O my soul!)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: 1 Thess. 4-5**

⁵ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

AUGUSTINE: (1 Thessalonians 4:13) In the Gospel it is written, “And the bridegroom tarrying, they all slept”? If we understand that sleep as caused by the delay of the last judgment, to which Christ is to come to judge, and the fact that because iniquity has abounded, the charity of many grows cold,² how shall we put the wise virgins there, when they are rather of those of whom it is said, “But he that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved”? It says, “they all slept,” because it is not only the foolish who do their good works for the sake of human praise, but also the wise who do them that God may be glorified, who experience that death. Both kinds die. And that death is often spoken of in the Scripture as sleep, as the resurrection is called an awakening. Hence the apostle says, “But I will not have you ignorant, brothers, concerning them that are asleep,” and in another place, “of whom many remain until this present, and some are fallen asleep.” Letters 140.32.76.⁶

Saturday, May 31

- Read **Psalm 147** (Hallelujah! For it is good to sing praises to our God)
- Read **Pauline Epistles: 2 Thessalonians**

⁶ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.