

WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION
SUNDAY – MIDNIGHT

Philippians 2:1-11 **Imitating Christ's Humility**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:
be of the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death
— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Praise be to God always!

WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION
SUNDAY – MORNING

1Corinthians 15:12-26 **The Resurrection of the Dead:
Results of Denial/Christ the Firstfruits**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then Christ has not been raised;
and if Christ has not been raised,
then our proclamation has been in vain
and your faith has been in vain.

We are even found to be misrepresenting God,
because we testified of God that he raised Christ
— whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised,
then Christ has not been raised.

If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.

For since death came through a human being,

the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order:

Christ the first fruits,

then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end,

when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father,

after he has destroyed every ruler

and every authority and power.

For he must reign

until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

1Corinthians 15:1-11 **The Gospel Teaching**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I would remind you of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Romans 6:3-11 **Freedom From Sin; Life in God**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Colossians 3:1-11 **Mystical Death and Resurrection**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Ephesians 2:1-10 **Generosity of God's Plan**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Romans 10:4-12 **Righteousness Based on Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: WEEK OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Colossians 2:8-15 **Sovereign Role of Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Praise be to God always!

NEW SUNDAY & SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

2Corinthians 5:11-21 **The Ministry of Reconciliation**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord,
we try to persuade others;

but we ourselves are well known to God,
and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again,
but giving you an opportunity to boast about us,
so that you may be able to answer those who boast
in outward appearance and not in the heart.

For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;
if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

For the love of Christ urges us on,
because we are convinced that one has died for all;
therefore all have died.

And he died for all,
so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore,
we regard no one from a human point of view;
even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!
All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself,
not counting their trespasses against them,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.
So we are ambassadors for Christ,
since God is making his appeal through us;
we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 1:1-9 **Greeting/Blessing**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 1:10-16 **Blessing**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look! Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 1:17-21 **Reverence**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 1:22-25 **Mutual Love**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 2:1-10 **God's House and People**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: SECOND WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 2:11-17 **Christian Examples/Christian Citizens**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Praise be to God always!

**THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION:
SUNDAY**

2Timothy 2:8-13 **Timothy's Conduct**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,
a descendant of David
— that is my gospel,
for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
with eternal glory.

The saying is sure: If we have died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful
—for he cannot deny himself.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 2:18-25 **Christian Slaves**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 3:1-12 **Christian Spouses**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good and never let fears alarm you. Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life — so that nothing may hinder your prayers. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called — that you might inherit a blessing. For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 3:13-22 **Christian Suffering**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 4:1-11 **Christian Restraint/Christian Charity**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.

Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does. The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 4:12-19 **Trial of Persecution**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: THIRD WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Peter 5:1-14 **Advice to Presbyters/Advice to the Community**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

As an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it — not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. Your sister church in

Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Praise be to God always!

**FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION:
SUNDAY**

Hebrews 13:18-25 **Final Exhortation, Blessing,
Greetings**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Father, give your blessing.

Pause for the blessing, then read:

Brothers and Sisters:

Pray for us;

we are sure that we have a clear conscience,
desiring to act honorably in all things.

I urge you all the more to do this,
so that I may be restored to you very soon.

Now may the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do his will,
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
bear with my word of exhortation,
for I have written to you briefly.

I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free;
and if he comes in time,
he will be with me when I see you.

Those from Italy send you greetings.
Grace be with all of you.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 1:1-10 **Greeting/Thanksgiving for Their Faith**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 2:1-12 **Paul's Ministry Among Them**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You yourselves know that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 2:13-20 **Further Thanksgiving/
Paul's Recent Travel Plans**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God and oppose everyone by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins; but God's wrath has overtaken them at last. As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you — in person, not in heart — we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again — but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy!

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 3:1-13 Paul's Recent Travel Plans/ Concluding Thanksgiving and Prayer

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we decided to be left alone in Athens; and we sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker for God in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so that no one would be shaken by these persecutions. Indeed, you yourselves know that this is what we are destined for. In fact, when we were with you, we told you beforehand that we were to suffer persecution; so it turned out, as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith; I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain. But Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. He has told us also that you always remember us kindly and long to see us — just as we long to see you. For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your faith. For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and

abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 4:1-12 **General Exhortations/Holiness in Sexual Conduct/Mutual Charity**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you. Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FOURTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

1Thessalonians 5:12-28 **Church Order/Concluding Prayer**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

We appeal to you to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Praise be to God always!

**FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION:
SUNDAY**

Ephesians 2:1-10 **Generosity of God's Plan**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

You were dead through the trespasses and sin
in which you once lived,
following the course of this world,
following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.
All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.
But God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us e
ven when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ
— by grace you have been saved
— and raised us up with him
and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God
— not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 1:1-10 **Greeting/Thanksgiving**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 1:12-20 **Progress of the Gospel**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I want you to know that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 1:21-30 **Progress of the Gospel/
Steadfastness in Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 2:1-11 **Plea for Unity and Humility**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 2:12-18 **Obedience and Service in the World**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you — and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: FIFTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 2:19-30 **Timothy and Paul/Epaphroditus**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon. Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus — my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

Praise be to God always!

**SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION:
SUNDAY**

Romans 10:1-13 **Righteousness Based on Faith**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

My heart's desire and prayer to God for them
is that they may be saved.

I can testify that they have a zeal for God,
but it is not enlightened.

For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God,
and seeking to establish their own,
they have not submitted to God's righteousness.

For Christ is the end of the law
so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness
that comes from the law,

that "the person who does these things will live by them."

But the righteousness that comes from faith says,

"Do not say in your heart,

'Who will ascend into heaven?'"

(that is, to bring Christ down)

"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'"

(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say?

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The scripture says,

“No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all
and is generous to all who call on him.

For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 3:1-12 **Righteousness and the Goal in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Finally, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh — even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 3:13-21 **Righteousness and the Goal in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Beloved:

I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 4:1-7 **Live in Concord/Joy and Peace**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry 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.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

ASCENSION THURSDAY

Acts 1:1-14 **The Promise of the Spirit/
The Ascension of Jesus**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Father, give your blessing.
Pause for the blessing, then read:

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw

and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 4:8-14 **Joy and Peace**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

Praise be to God always!

SATURDAY: SIXTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Philippians 4:15-23 **Gratitude for the Philippians' Generosity**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Praise be to God always!

**SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION:
SUNDAY**

Ephesians 1:15-23 **The Church as Christ's Body**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation
as you come to know him,
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power
for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ
when he raised him from the dead
and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.
And he has put all things under his feet
and has made him the head over all things for the church,

which is his body,
the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Praise be to God always!

MONDAY: SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Ephesians 4:1-13 **Unity in the Body/Diversity of Gifts**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Praise be to God always!

TUESDAY: SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Ephesians 4:17-24 **Renewal in Christ**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Praise be to God always!

WEDNESDAY: SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Ephesians 4:25-32 **Rules of the New Life**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Praise be to God always!

THURSDAY: SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Ephesians 5:1-7 **Duty to Live in the Light**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them.

Praise be to God always!

FRIDAY: SEVENTH WEEK OF THE RESURRECTION

Ephesians 5:8-21 **Duty to Live in the Light/
Wives and Husbands**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. Father, give your blessing. **Pause for the blessing, then read:**

Brothers and Sisters:

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Praise be to God always!