

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 54:4-5, 1-3, 7

Behold, God is my / helper;\*  
the Lord is with those who up- / hold my life.  
He will repay my enemies for their / evil.\*  
Cut them off / in Your truth.  
Save me, O God, / by Your name,\*  
and vindicate me / by Your strength.  
Hear my / prayer, O God;\*  
give ear to the words / of my mouth.  
For strangers have risen up a- / gainst me,\*  
they have not set God be- / fore them.  
He has delivered me out of all / trouble;\*  
and my eye has seen its desire upon my / enemies.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Isaiah 6:3  
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory!”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 366, LSB 536  
**One Thing’s Needful; Lord, This Treasure** Johann H. Schroeder



1. One thing's needful; Lord this treasure  
Teach me highly to regard;  
All else, though it first give pleasure,  
Is a yoke that presses hard.  
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striv-  
ing,  
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.  
The gain of this one thing all loss can requite  
And teach me in all things to find true de-  
light.

6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful,  
Turn from all created things  
Unto Jesus and be heedful  
Of the blessed joy He brings.  
For where God and Man both in one are united,  
With God's perfect fullness the heart is de-  
lighted;  
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,  
My One and my All and my Joy and my Rest.



“Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts”

**1** BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**2** SAY THE APOSTLES’ CREED  
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died  
and was buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the  
dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at  
the right hand of God, the Father  
Almighty. From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
Christian church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen.

**3** PRAY THE LORD’S PRAYER  
Our Father, who art in  
heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it  
is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily  
bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us;  
and lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and  
the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**4** PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

*Morning.* I thank You, my  
heavenly Father, through Jesus  
Christ, Your dear Son, that You  
have kept me this night from all  
harm and danger; and I pray that  
You would keep me this day also  
from sin and every evil, that all my  
doings and life may please You.  
For into Your hands I commend  
myself, my body and soul, and all  
things. Let Your holy angel be with  
me, that the evil foe may have no  
power over me. Amen.

*Evening.* I thank you, my  
heavenly Father, through Jesus  
Christ, Your dear Son, that You  
have graciously kept me this day;  
and I pray that You would forgive  
me all my sins where I have done  
wrong, and graciously keep me this  
night. For into Your hands, I  
commend myself, my body and  
soul, and all things. Let Your holy  
angel be with me, that the evil foe  
may have no power over me. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

The sinful condition of fallen man can perhaps be best described as profound selfishness, “the self curved-in on itself” (*incurvatus en se*). Man, who would be God, becomes god only to himself. In order to heal us, Christ, our Great Physician, must literally turn us “inside-out” – the self no longer oriented toward self, but toward God. The more this happens, the more we are healed. Indeed, we begin to see things differently. God is all in all, all things are His. We were made for Him and given to be stewards. Perhaps we even begin to see what the sinless Seraphim see perfectly.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9 “Making Eternal Friends”

“Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.” Wealth will fail you. There will come a time when all the wealth in the world will be of no use whatsoever. Death strips us of absolutely everything – everything but Christ, our compassionate Savior, and the great multitude who have believed in Him. What good, then, is earthly wealth? Jesus is blunt. It should be used to help those who will be our eternal friends, those who will remember our kindness and welcome us into eternal dwellings. What a joyful day that will be! *Lord Jesus Christ, teach me to number my days that I may gain a heart of wisdom and so use temporal things for eternal joy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:65-72 (TETH) “Why Are So Many Things Going Wrong?”

“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.” Every day a new degree is handed out from the School of Hard Knocks. If there is any Christian you admire, it is likely because they have received several such degrees and thus learned what David himself learned: if not for affliction, we would not keep His word. Painful lessons are – even if only in hindsight – the most important lessons. Affliction is the very thing that leads – or drives – us to the Afflicted One, the Crucified One, the One who has such great compassion for us that He not only forgives us but heals us into keeping God’s word. *Gracious Father, teach me to hate my sin, my self-centeredness, my greed. Forgive me, and afflict me, until I am healed. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 “Stewardship Of Your Soul”

Paul’s argument is not one we frequently hear. The Old Testament people had Christ. They had Baptism (in the Red Sea). They had Communion (manna from Heaven and water from the Rock). Yet, they perished. Why? Because God is not mocked. He wants sinners to be comforted and forgiven, but He will not allow His grace to be the very thing upon which idolatry and rebellion are built. We cannot “cling to our Baptism” or “tremble at the Supper” while engaging in open and impenitent sin. God won’t play along and the consequences will be dire. *Merciful Father, keep me from presumptuous sins, blot out my transgressions, and lead me out of temptation and into the true Promised Land wherein I will be free from sin forever. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 “Everything is His”

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory ... for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.” We are not our own. Both body and soul belong to God, along with all other things. As impossible as it is for our fallen reason to grasp: we are stewards of ourselves. The words of David (above) are often thought to be the inspiration for the ending of the Lord’s prayer: “For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory ...” It is a beautiful concluding thought. All things are in the hands of the One who so loves us that He gave His only Son. *Gracious Father, as steward of myself, I draw near to You in the faith that You have given. If I have nothing, but have You, I have everything. If I have everything, but have You not, I have nothing. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:32-48 “The Physician’s Diagnosis”

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Lutherans frequently like to ask if a given saying from Scripture is Law or Gospel, but our Lord’s words often defy such magisterial attempts. So masterful is Jesus at Law and Gospel, with a single saying He does both – depending, of course, upon you. If your treasure is on earth, your heart is bound to the earth. There could hardly be more sobering Law. If your treasure is in heaven, your heart is bound to heaven. A more hopeful Gospel could not be given. *Lord Jesus, set my heart on You and I am in heaven already. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:3-14 “Stewards of Our Progeny”

Paul mentions his own faithful ancestors, while also mentioning the important roles of Timothy’s own faithful grandma (Lois) and mother (Eunice). Our children and grandchildren are not our own. They are given to us by God that we might raise them to know Him as He is: gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love. Let us go joyfully about this task, realizing its importance, even if it should prove difficult or sorrowful. *Beloved Father, thank You for those who brought me into the faith, and please use me to help others know the forgiveness and love of Your Son. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 “No Escape”

Nothing is hidden from God. There is no escaping God. Even if we run away, He is there. While that may seem menacing, it is so only to our sinful flesh. Let us stop running and come clean. Let us confess our sins to the Lord. Let us receive the atonement He made for us. Let us drink the cup of salvation. Let us be filled with the Love of the One who is Love. Nothing is hidden from God. There is no escaping God. Thanks be to God! Why would we ever run away? *Your glory, O Lord, fills the heavens and the earth. Cleanse my heart and open my eyes that I may see the wonders of Your grace. Amen.*

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