



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49

The Lord was / my support.*
 In the day of my ca- / lamity
 He brought me out into a / broad place;*
 He delivered me because He delight- / ed in me.
 I will love You, O / Lord, my strength.*
 The Lord is my rock and my / fortress.
 For You will save the humble / people,*
 but will bring down / haughty looks.
 As for God, His way is / perfect;*
 the word of the Lord is / proven;
 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the / Gentiles,*
 and sing praises / to Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Acts 2:42
 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 384, LSB 559
Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion Johann Olearius



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| <p>1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
 Faithful Father, God of grace,
 That with all our fallen race
 And in our deep degradation
 Thou wast merciful that we
 Might be saved eternally!</p> | <p>3. And for this our soul's salvation
 Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
 In Thy Sacraments and Word.
 He imparts true consolation,
 Granteth us the gift of faith
 That we fear nor hell nor death.</p> |
| <p>2. Thy great love for this hath striven
 That we may from sin be free
 And forever live with Thee;
 Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
 And extends an earnest call
 To His Supper unto all.</p> | <p>4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,
 Truth doth evermore abide,
 Then in Thee I will confide.
 Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
 My salvation is to me
 Well assured eternally.</p> |

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: The Spirit's Call to Fellowship with God

Having been born of water and the Spirit (Trinity Sunday [John 3]) and forsaken all earthly wealth (Trinity I [Luke 16]), the thematic focus of the church year turns to the Spirit's call to fellowship with God. We, who are baptized into His name, are welcomed to break bread at His table (Luke 14, Isaiah 25, Revelation 3), invited to meditate on His statutes (Psalm 119), and bidden to share in His love as our bond of fellowship with one another (I John 3). Psalm 28, which shapes the Introit and Gradual for Trinity 2, concludes the week with a prayer for deliverance from all evil, as befits those who continue steadfast in the apostolic confession and church, come what may.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:16-24 The Parable of the Great Banquet

The messianic banquet is the primary image of salvation in Jewish and Christian literature. An ancient Jewish document called "The Rule of the Congregation" says the Messiah will enter a great banquet hall and take His place before all Israel. He will then take the bread of the future age to start the messianic feast, bless His people, and feast with them. Those who rejected this feast in Luke 14 were eventually left outside, to weep and to gnash their teeth. But you, who feast with Christ in the means of grace, are blessed to eat bread with Christ Himself. *O God, let us hear when our Shepherd shall call / In accents persuasive and tender, That while there is time we make haste, one and all, And find Him, our mighty defender. (LSB 510.2) Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16 Teach Me Your Statutes

Did your family ever sing some fun songs on long road trips? Psalm 119, arranged in twenty-two stanzas after the Hebrew alphabet, was probably a "caravan Psalm," i.e., a song to be sung while traveling to Jerusalem for major festivals. The two-fold meaning of walking to Jerusalem and walking in the way of the Lord should not be lost on those who pray this Psalm. Reject God's statutes and you will be a lost sheep (vs. 176). But those who "walk in the way of the Lord" (vs. 1) and seek Him with their whole heart (v. 10) are blessed with life, salvation, and the resurrection from the dead in Christ. *Order my footsteps by Thy Word / And make my heart sincere; Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear. (LSB 707.2) Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:13-18 Love in Christ, Strong and Living

As you read this lesson from I John, you might find yourself agreeing with one Christian author who said that, amidst the recent destruction of everything from one objective truth to male and female identity, two things remain: the Judaic ethic of justice and the Christian ethic of love. This is most certainly true! Moses' Law still teaches the eternal truth that murder, including murder in the heart, is sinful. And the Christian Gospel proclaims that God loved us first in Christ, and now He bids you to love your neighbor, in deed and in truth. *Lord, make me love what You command and desire what You promise, that among the manifold changes of this age, my heart may be fixed where true joys are to be found. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25:6-9 A Mountaintop Feast

Have you ever attended the Boar's Head Festival? It is truly a magnificent musical and artistic feast, set in a Medieval castle. There the entire community celebrates the slaying of the dangerous boar and joins in a great feast with its king. This grand ceremony reminds us of Isaiah's mountaintop feast. You might not obsess over how the meat on your plate was killed. But Isaiah's prophecy, set in the end-times, bids you to rejoice and be glad that death—the last enemy—has been swallowed up by Christ, who now shares the fruits of His resurrection victory with you. *O Lord, grant me to rightly partake of the sacred feast, wherein Christ is received, the memory of His passion is recalled, and the pledge of future glory is given to me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35 The Cost of Fellowship with Christ

In Germany, where Muslims are converting in especially large numbers, someone posted a photograph of a recent Muslim convert to Christianity on social media. A Muslim relative from his homeland saw the post, traveled to Germany, and murdered the alleged infidel. Today's reading offers several examples of counting the cost before leaving all to follow Jesus, none the least of which is being willing to bear your cross, even to death (v. 27), rather than fall away from the faith. The sinful world calls you "infidel" or "the unfaithful one." Jesus, however, calls you His faithful steward, who is ready for His return. *O Lord, in the hour of death call me, and bid me come to You, that with Your saints I may praise You for all eternity. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:14-22 Be Zealous and Repent!

Search online for "church" and "non-credal" and you will no doubt find several thoroughly credal (i.e., belief-based) statements from some churches on why they do not confess any creeds! This fallacy reminds us of the Church at Laodicea, which was lukewarm, and therefore poised to be spit out of Jesus' mouth (v. 16). How different it is for all who faithfully hear what the Spirit says to the churches: be zealous and repent of your sins (v. 19); hear His voice in the external word and confess the doctrine of the apostles; and eat with Him in the "evening meal," i.e., the Lord's Supper (v. 20). *May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry, And Thy blood for us plead / In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy. (LSB 617.1) Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 28 Our Strength and Our Shield

David prayed this psalm against his enemies, that the Lord Himself would be both his strength and his shield, when he was delivered from the threats of Saul, Absalom, and other enemies. Jesus prayed this psalm as "the saving refuge of his anointed" in the flesh, for He was anointed by the Father to be the eternal refuge of God's people. And you, in Christ alone, "pray this psalm against the tyrants and against the rebellious spirits . . . [who] seek the corruption of souls and are, under sheep's clothing, ravening wolves" (Luther). Let us conclude this week by praying the last verse of this Psalm, which is sung as part of the Te Deum ("We Praise Thee, O God"): *O Lord, save Thy people and bless thine inheritance! Govern them and lift them up forever. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email office@hopeaurora.org. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is yet another Brian. **Rev. Brian Hamer**, Chaplain to the 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, CA. He has been married to Jennifer White Hamer since 1997. They are blessed with two daughters, Emma (11) and Kaitlyn (15).