

“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11**

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving- | kindnesses,*
for they are | from of old.
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!
To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed:
do not remember the sins | of my youth;*
according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.
Good and upright | is the Lord;*
therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.
For Your name's | sake, O Lord,*
pardon my iniquity, for | it is great.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **James 1:2**

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
When In The Hour of Utmost Need

TLH 522, LSB 615
Paul Eber



1. When in the hour of utmost need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,
4. For Thou hast promised graciously
To hear all those who cry to Thee
Through Him whose name alone is great,
Our Savior and our Advocate.

5. And thus we come, O God, today
And all our woes before Thee lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on every hand.
6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,
Absolve us through Thy boundless grace,
Be with us in our anguish still,
Free us at last from every ill.

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: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

The Christian life is not easy. There are dangers on the right hand and on the left. We perceive invisible yet extremely powerful forces of evil at work in our world. We see billions of people being swept away in idolatry and lies. We look in the mirror and see great evils at work within us. Our faith often wavers. Does the Lord despise us in our weakness? Does He cast us away with the demonic and unbelieving world? No, He suffers the weakness of His disciples. He forgives us, renews us, and promises that His strength will be perfected even in the midst of our many weaknesses. He will prevail and we, too, will gain victory through Him.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 "Testing Our Faith"

What does this woman see in Jesus that she is willing to endure His silence, His refusal, and His rejection? In Jesus she sees her only hope. The Christian life is not easy. Sometimes, and most-surprisingly, we even find ourselves contending with Christ. God often tests our faith in order to strengthen it and make us steadfast. Are we willing to endure this process, to cling to Christ as our only hope? May God grant it, and may He inspire us through the example of the Canaanite woman. *Lord Jesus, as You saved this woman's daughter from demonic oppression, save us also from the evil one and bring us out of this valley of sorrow to Yourself in heaven. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 "Fearful Forgiveness"

"But with You there is forgiveness that You may be feared." If the Lord kept a record of every sin, no man could stand before Him, this is true. But, according to the Psalmist, our fear consists not in His marking our sins, but precisely in His forgiveness of them. What unfathomable power there is in God's just and final condemnation of sinners. Yet, in the cross of Jesus, we behold a power even greater still: the forgiveness of all sins, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, death overturned. Beloved Child of God, you are truly and entirely forgiven. *Blessed Jesus, we tremble before Your goodness in holy fear, and give You thanks. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 "Pleasing to God?"

Here Saint Paul reminds us how we "ought to walk and to please God" and "do so more and more." Is God not already pleased with us solely on account of Christ? He is. Our Father is perfectly pleased to have us as His children and to save us by the cross of Jesus alone, and, precisely because we have such a loving Father, we should seek to please Him all the more, just as Saint Paul instructs. We love Him because He first loved us. *Come, Holy Spirit, and work mightily in us that we might grow to become more like our blessed Father in heaven. Like Father, like sons. Now and for eternity. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25 "When God Swears"

God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Indeed, we hear God say through Isaiah: "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!" What follows next is even more breathtaking still: God swears an oath. He has no need whatsoever to do this for His own sake, but does so solely for our sake, so that we can be absolutely certain of His promise of salvation. He does not lie. He loves you. He likes you. He is infinitely good and infinitely wise, and you are His today and forever. *Dear Father, keep us from the deceits of the devil, that we would hear and believe Your solemn oath that You will save us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29 "We Are Weak, But He Is Strong"

"I believe; help my unbelief!" These words are a beautiful summary of what we Christians so often feel. We know that we believe, but occasions often arise that show how weak our faith truly is. The disciples, too, felt their weakness when they could not cast out the unclean spirit. Perhaps they had attempted to do so by their own strength rather than approaching God in humility, with fasting and prayer, requesting that He cast the demon out. Nonetheless, we see that it is our Lord's good pleasure to suffer the weakness of His disciples and help us in our need. He does for us what we cannot do. He delivers us from evil. *Lord Jesus, we are weak, yet You are strong. Teach us Your ways and be our protector. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20 "Anointed by the Anointed One"

Many Lutheran pastors, when visiting the sick, use a book called the "Pastoral Care Companion." In this book, opportunity is given for pastors to anoint the sick with oil, just as James describes. There is nothing magical about the oil, it confers no grace or spiritual benefit in-and-of itself. Yet the act of anointing with oil is a powerful symbol. "Christ" means "anointed one." Thus, to be anointed ourselves, is a powerful reminder that we belong to the Anointed One, that we have been "christened" and baptized into Him, and so we shall indeed be saved and healed – temporally as He sees fit, and eternally as He has promised. Into Your hands, *Lord Jesus, we commend body, soul, and all things. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 "Remember Me"

"Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord." Time does not heal all wounds. Nor is the passage of time any kind of savior. We may be done with the past but the past is not done with us. All things are present-tense to an eternal God – thus the psalmist cries out and we with him: Remember not my sins, but remember me. And do so according to Your steadfast love – according to the love with which You gave Your beloved Son, with which He shed His precious blood in atonement of all my sin. *Lord Jesus, remember not the weakness of Your people, but as You remembered and welcomed the thief on the cross, so remember and welcome us. Amen.*

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