



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Jeremiah 29:11-12, Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, / says the Lord,*
 thoughts of peace and not of / evil,
 Then you will call upon Me and go and / pray to Me,*
 and I will listen / unto you.
 Lord, You have been favorable / to Your land;*
 You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.
 Show us Your / mercy, Lord,*
 and grant us Your sal- / vation.
 Surely His salvation is near to those who / fear Him,*
 that glory may dwell / in our land.
 Truth shall spring out / of the earth,*
 and righteousness shall look down from / heaven.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Philippians 3:20**
 “...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Absolve, we implore You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word**
 TLH 261, LSB 655
 Martin Luther



1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
 Curb those who fain by craft and sword
 Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy
 Son
 And set at naught all He hath done.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make
 known,
 For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
 Defend Thy Christendom that we
 May evermore sing praise to Thee.
3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
 Send peace and unity on earth.
 Support us in our final strife
 And lead us out of death to life.

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: Resisting the Wicked World

This week's passages are not about resisting the wicked World, as much as they are about keeping our eyes on Jesus and our hearts on God's promises. When we come to church we face the Altar, Lectern, and Pulpit. We are looking for good gifts from God. He always delivers. The backspin of the work of God given in His Word and Sacraments is that we will, in faith, resist the wicked world. Sometimes we actively resist. But by God's grace much of our struggle will be passive. Look to Jesus. What did He do to resist the wicked world? He trusted God, His Father, and He consequently suffered at the hands of men. Then God raised Him in victory. The world's wickedness was unable to stop the atoning blessings of His death and saving Word.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15-22: Your Sinful Heart: It's Pernicious

The Pharisees will use anything to catch Jesus in His words. They have tried the Scriptures. They have tried tradition. Now, they are trying government. Your sinful heart is pernicious like theirs. We will try to justify ignoring Jesus, resisting His word, working against His Will, in just about any way we are able. How many times have we been willing to throw the kitchen sink at God to keep from doing the one thing necessary: repenting of our sins and trusting in the Gospel? Jesus is not looking for a fight. He does not want your works of penance. He especially does not want your hard-headed unrepentance. He wants your death to sin and resurrection to life. *Oh God, help me daily die well. Let there be less of me, and more of Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124: God's Faithfulness Saves

The Church is a testimony to the world. The world is not a light. The world is not an end. The Church is the end. Jesus Christ is the end. He is everything. So, when the world is going to hell as it is right now and always has been, why do we get so caught up into its purposes? Let us, rather, get more caught-up into Jesus. The Lord has blessed us. He has taken us away from sin, death, and hell and handed us over to His Son. The most beautiful thing we can do now is daily believe and trust in this Lord Jesus. The most beautiful thing we can do is daily proclaim, loudly, that God is at Work in the Church giving heaven in Christ. *Great Protector, when everything is going to hell, give Jesus into my eyes, ears and heart. He is my end and everything. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:17-21: Your Heart, His Promises

Jesus gives you His promises. Let your heart rest in those. God will take care of everything. There is no need for you to get wrapped-up in the judgment of this world. That is not your job. That is not your vocation. Your vocation is this; you are a citizen of heaven waiting for Jesus. You are a saint. What God promises to you is that He will handle everything. He has handled sin, death, and hell in Jesus. Now, He extends immortality and life to you as a promise in Christ. You are free. Why shackle yourself to the transient and dying things of this world anymore? Jesus is coming. Soon. For you. *Father, too often I wait for this world's tomorrow. Help me wait well for Your Son's tomorrow. Please, bring it soon. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 32:1-8: In Christ Everything Is Clear

The Word of God is clear. The Word of God gives clarity. God's Word straightens everything out. The Word of God is Jesus. As it turns out, you have to work hard to make what is clear murky. You have to add your works to make Jesus and the Scriptures a dark cavern that cannot be seen clearly or understood. You must introduce your insights to make the straight things of God crooked. Sinners are good at making the clear murky and the straight crooked. But, the righteous live by faith and rest in God's Word made clear in Christ. In Him we have received all we need to occupy and clarify our vision, tongues, ears, and hearts. *Great Physician, daily heal my eyes, mouth, ears, and heart in Christ. This is enough for me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:41-44: Faith Gives Everything

Jesus is not surprised by the offering. He is surprised by faith in Jerusalem. Faithful people give generously. They do not withhold offerings because they do not like the pastor. Faithful people do not hold grudges and weaponize their service and attendance in the Church. They do not show-off their sacrifices. These are the power games the world loves. Do not be like the world. We give everything because we trust God gives us everything in His Word and Promises. What more do we need? *Giver of All Good Things, help me hold onto Your Word and Promises in Christ and let go of everything else. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:1-7: Good Government. Bad Government. Who Cares?

Maybe it will be that our Government is favorable to us. Maybe it will be that our Government is not. Who cares? We have Jesus. Too much time and worry is spent on divining the future of the Church. Sometimes God gives Cyrus. Sometimes God gives Nebuchadnezzar. We are learning that our joys and our sorrows flow from the hand of our Father. So, if we are to take some chastisement for a time we will receive this as a good gift from our Father who knows better. If we are to have a time of peace, we will thank God all the more for His care and providence. *Ruler of the Stars of Night, on this celestial ball keep me planted in Your Son so that despite the many changes and chances of this World I remain steadfast in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31: God Favors the Righteous

God plays favorites. He always has and He always will. Abel, Abraham, Jacob, and Moses. You. This is not a scandal. This reality is clear from the beginning of time. There is only one planet with life. One. God chose one man out of many. He favored Israel out of all the nations. God plays favorites. That is good news for those whom He favors. He favors you. How do you know? You have heard the invitation of the Gospel. You have been baptized. Jesus feeds you with His Body and Blood. Trust in His promise that you belong to Him. *Almighty Father, You are the boss of everything. I thank You that You have seen fit to call me into Your Kingdom and favor me. Amen.*

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