

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 34:3b; 34:17; 48:14a; 78:1-3, 4b

Say to my soul, "I am your sal- / vation."*
The righteous cry out, and the / Lord hears.
He delivers them out of all their / troubles.*
For this is God, our God forever and / ever.
Give ear, O my people, / to my law;*
incline your ears to the words / of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a / parable;*
I will utter dark say- / ings of old,
which we have / heard and known,*
and our fathers have / told us.
We will tell the generation to come the praises / of the Lord,*
and His strength and His wonderful works that / He has done.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 20: 22-23
The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we implore You, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready, both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that You would have done; 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 TLH 331, LSB 614
Yea, As I Live, Jehovah Saith Nikolaus Herman



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| 1. Yea, as I live, Jehovah saith,
I would not have the sinner's death,
But that he turn from error's ways,
Repent, and live through endless days. | 4. "What ye shall bind, that bound shall be;
What ye shall loose, that shall be free;
Unto My Church the keys are giv'n
To ope and close the gates of heav'n." |
| 2. To us therefore Christ gave command:
"Go forth and preach in every land;
Bestow on all My pardoning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways. | 7. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
For absolution full and free,
In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;
From false indulgence guard our race. |
| 3. "All those whose sins ye thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins ye do retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain. | 8. Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As 'twas, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally! |



"Resisting the Flesh Led by the Devil"

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 Flesh Led by the Devil**

Neither the devil nor our sinful flesh wants God's name to be hallowed or His kingdom to come. Thus some of the scribes accused Jesus of blasphemy when He forgave the sins of the paralytic. Their sinful flesh, led by the devil, would rather rob a sinner of God's mercy than give glory to Jesus, the Son of Man. But Christ would not be silenced. He has authority on earth to forgive sins, and having done so, He made the lame man rise and walk. Still today, we Christians receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself. By this we walk in newness of life, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:1-8 Which Is Easier?**

"Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk?'" It only took a word to heal the paralytic, but it took Christ's death on the cross to win forgiveness. Only for the sake of Jesus' blood can we be told, "Your sins are forgiven." Yet this Word of Absolution is true and powerful. Therefore, we are certain that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. *Lord Jesus, You bore the cross for me. Grant me true repentance and faith in You alone for the forgiveness of sins. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:145-152 I Hope in Your Words**

In this portion of Psalm 119, the psalmist alternates between his cries for help and the Lord's life-giving Word. This pattern may be reflected in our lives. When the devil, the world, and the flesh persecute us, we are driven to God's Word, which both motivates our prayers and provides their content. Then, having committed everything to the Lord in prayer, we are drawn back to His Word, where we are assured of His unfailing promise to always be near. *O Lord, answer me when I cry to You, and give me life according to Your unfailing promise. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 4:22-28 You Were Taught in Jesus**

The unbeliever's life is one of futility and darkness, and so was ours at one time. But now we have been taught in Christ Jesus to put off the old self, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and to put on the new self. This happens each day as we confess our sins, believe that they are forgiven for Jesus' sake, and walk in new life of love for God and our neighbor. *O God, grant me true repentance for my sins and faith in Jesus each day. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 44:21-23 I Have Redeemed You**

How many times had Israel sinned against God? The Bible is filled with accounts of her transgressions. But the Bible overflows all the more with God's mercy and forgiveness for Israel and for all people. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, though we have deserved only punishment, we return to God our Father, trusting in His boundless mercy toward us poor, sinful beings. *Lord Jesus, my Redeemer, You are worthy of all glory and honor for the mercy You have shown to me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 1:35-51 Come and See**

Sinners must be brought to Jesus, for we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Him or come to Him. Regardless of who brought us to church the first time, it was the Holy Spirit who created saving faith in us through the Word of God. As we invite others to "come and see," we trust that God Himself will do His work of creating faith in those who hear the Gospel. *Gracious God, give me courage to bring others to hear Your Word, trusting that You alone have the power to create faith in our hearts. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Have Care for One Another**

In Holy Baptism we were clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all our sin. So we also should be ready to cover the faults of our fellow Christians. "Our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another." It is a gracious thing when we care for our fellow believers by forgiving them, even as God in Christ forgives us. *Lord Jesus, help me to forgive those who trespass against me and explain everything in the kindest way. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 61 The Shelter of His Wings**

When our hearts are faint, our only refuge is the Lord God Almighty. We should be confident that He will defend us in every time of need because He was willing to be crucified for us. Jesus purchased and won us by His blood that we may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom. We dwell in safety under the shelter of His wings, serving Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, ever singing praises to His Name. *Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer, and let me dwell in Your tent forever. Amen.*