

“Resisting the World Rules by the Devil”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Apocraphal Esther 13:9–11; (Psalm 119:1, 38–40)

The whole world is / in Your power;*
 O Lord, King Almighty, no one can / gainsay You.
 For You have made / heav'n and earth;*
 You are / Lord of all!
 Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
 who walk in the law / of the Lord!
 Establish Your word to Your / servant,*
 who is devoted to / fearing You.
 Turn away my reproach / which I dread,*
 for Your judg- / ments are good.
 Behold, I long for Your / precepts;*
 revive me in Your / righteousness.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 5:19
 “Resist [the devil], firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord, we implore You to keep Your household the Church in continual godliness, that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; 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 261, LSB 655
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word 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 World Ruled by the Devil

Trinity XXI always occurs after Michaelmas (29 September), as the nights get longer, a solar reminder to resist the powers of darkness and to live by the true light. Our faith is strengthened as we behold God's presence in physical healing (Sunday), the various facets of God's holy Word (Monday), and the need to resist the devil (Tuesday). Confident in Jesus' resurrection victory (Wednesday), we give thanks for two suffering saints (Thursday), and to learn from the faithfulness of the brotherhood in Philadelphia (Friday). Confident in Jesus' victory over Satan, we can pray with the psalmist, "Into Your hand I commit my spirit" (Saturday).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 4:46-54 Healing the Nobleman's Son

Martin Franzmann, author of the hymn text, "Thy Strong Word," said of this gospel lesson, "When Jesus sent this man home with only a word to go on, with only a word in his pocket, He was ministering mightily to us all. He shifted our faith from signs and wonders to His word." The progression of signs in John's gospel from wine at Cana to this nobleman to the cross is full of grace and truth. But what about us? "We have the Word of One who gives us power to become the sons of God: we have the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us. We have the Word of Him for whose fullness we have all received, and grace for grace" (*Ha! Ha! Among the Trumpets, 106-107. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, present in Thy holy Word (LSB 394.1). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:161-168 (SIN & SHIN) "Seven Times a Day I will Praise Thee"

God's abundant grace in Psalm 119 comes in sets of seven. The Word of God is described in seven closely related words-- "words," "word," "law," "rules," "commandments," "testimonies," and "precepts"—all of which make us wise unto salvation in Christ. Similarly, Jesus once described God's forgiveness as "seventy times seven," (Matt. 18:22), that is to say, unlimited forgiveness, flowing from His cross. And you, who love His Word and eat His meal, praise Him seven times daily, for your entire life is a "living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1) to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword / Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son / And bring to naught all He has done" (LSB 655.1). Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-17 The Armor of God: Baptismally Enclosed in Christ

The doctrine of spiritual warfare avoids two equal and opposite extremes. Spiritual pacifism refuses to fight, opting instead for the "COEXIST" bumper sticker, which unites emblems of all the major faith traditions. Holy war, on the other hand, would bid you to sing the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" in pursuit of earthly triumph. St. Paul, however, describes the armor of one who fights a just war against the powers of darkness. Baptismally enclosed in Christ's own armor -- "With helmet and sword, With shield for the fight . . . In breastplate resplendent: the armor of God" (LSB 665.1) -- you can rest in His confidence and be strong in the Lord. *To beat down Satan under our feet / We implore You to hear us, good Lord (LSB p. 289). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Hosea 13:14 "O Death, Where Are Your Plagues?"

Speaking through the prophet Hosea, the Lord asks if He should ransom Israel from Sheol (the abode of the dead) and from death itself. These parallel questions were answered when death left its sting in the Savior's side as Jesus, the cruciform image of faithful Hosea doing all for his erring wife, ransomed us from Sheol. So in the midst of plague, calamity, and even at the grave, we can ask in mockery, "O death, where is your sting? O Sheol, where is your victory?" St. Paul's answer is resplendent with Easter joy: "Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:56). *O my God, my Rock and Tower, Grant that in Your death I trust, Knowing death has lost its power / Since You crushed it in the dust (LSB 521.4). Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:17-21 The Hatred of the World

See how Saints Simon and Jude endured the hatred of the world for the sake of Christ! Simon went to Armenia and Jude went to England to make the face of Christ present as the only hope for the world. Later they went to Persia, where history suggests that Simon was sawn in two and Jude was killed with a battle-axe, all for the sake of Jesus' name. And so holy baptism thrusts you into battle against the sinful world, which hounds the mystical body of Christ with diabolical frenzy. But the reward for faithfulness to Christ is the crown of eternal life. *Praise, Lord, for Your apostles, Saint Simon and Saint Jude... May we with zeal as earnest / The faith of Christ maintain, Be bound in love together, And life eternal gain (LSB 518.28). Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7-13 A Post Card to the Church in Philadelphia

The letter to the church in Philadelphia is introduced as the words of "one who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens." Behold the office of the keys in motion! The unbelievers, the synagogue of Satan, and all the finally impenitent will be shut out of the kingdom of heaven. Repent, O sinner! But you, who abide in His word and sacraments, will not lose your crown of eternal life. Rather, you will be pillars in the temple of the living God, bear the name of God Himself, and abide in Him from baptism to eternal life, for the doors of the new Jerusalem have been opened by the Key of David. *O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare / For that bright home of love / That I may see Thee and adore / With all Thy saints above (TLH 618.6). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:1-13 "Into Your Hand I Commit My Spirit"

In this Psalm the psalmist prays that he would be protected from all his enemies, for the Lord preserves the faithful. Christ prayed this Psalm as He handed over His spirit into death, confident in His resurrection on the third day. And you, the faithful, pray this Psalm at the end of the day and at the end of your life, for Christ has redeemed you, you are His, and He simply will not let you fail. Having committed all things into His loving care, let us conclude the week with selected words from the "Soul of Christ" prayer: *O good Jesus, hear me; within Your wounds hide me; never let me be separated from You; from the malicious enemy defend me; in the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to You that with Your saints I may praise You for all eternity. Amen.*

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