



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23**

Have respect to Your cov- / nant, O Lord;\*  
 oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!  
 Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;\*  
 do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.  
 O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?\*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?  
 Remember Your congre- / gation,\*  
 which You have pur- / chased of old,  
 The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—\*  
 this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.  
 Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.\*  
 Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 84:10**

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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  
**O God, Thou Faithful God**

TLH 395, LSB 696  
 Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,  
 Thou Fountain ever flowing,  
 Who good and perfect gifts  
 In mercy art bestowing,  
 Give me a healthy frame,  
 And may I have within  
 A conscience free from blame,  
 A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do  
 With ready heart and willing  
 Whate'er Thou shalt command,  
 My calling here fulfilling;  
 To do it when I ought,  
 With all my might, and bless  
 The work I thus have wrought,  
 For Thou must give success.

**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: **Believing Love of All Others**

Jesus saves sinners. That's good news for sinners. That's good news for you and me. In the Lord's kingdom there is no place for self-justification, no place for pride and boasting, but there is a home for the humble and a place for the repentant. We rejoice this week in the good news that Jesus has carried our sins so that He would lift us up into eternal life and give us a place in His everlasting abode.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:23-37: Self-Justification Always Fails**

The lawyer stands before Jesus with a dangerous goal: he wants to justify himself. He wants to appear righteous. He wants to make the case of his own goodness. The lawyer attempts this follow by limiting the scope of the Law. The Law says, "Love your neighbor." He asks, "Who is my neighbor?" "If I could whittle down that category, if I could limit the numbers of neighbors, then maybe I could maintain this illusion of righteousness." Jesus won't have it. He tells the story of a man stripped and beaten, rescued by the kindness of a Samaritan. Self-justification is destroyed. Love for neighbor is expanded. And our only hope for salvation is found in the unexpected kindness of Jesus, our Savior. *Lord Jesus, justify us with Your blood. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:97-104 (MEM), The Sweet Word of God**

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103). How is this? How is the Lord's Word sweet? We taste the bitterness of the Lord's condemning Law. We know the sourness of our own sin. But the Lord brings another Word, the kind Word of the Gospel, the gracious Word of forgiveness. The sweetness of the Word of God is the good news that God is not mad, that our sin is forgiven, and our shame is covered. The sweetness of the Word of God is Jesus, the Savior of sinners, crucified and raised for our rescue and life. *Grant us, O Lord, to hold tight the wisdom and comfort of Your Word, and to know the sweetness of Your love. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 3:15-22, The All and the One Seed**

In our text Paul is deep into the doctrine of justification, how it is that the Lord forgives all our sins. The Law is especially designed by God to show our need for a Savior. "The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe" (Galatians 3:22). That promise came first, before the Law. Paul gives us a hint on where to find the Gospel in the Old Testament: look for the promise of the Seed. The Seed will crush the devil's head (Genesis 3:15). The Seed will bless the nations (Genesis 22:18). The Seed will have an everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12-13). The Seed is Christ, the Savior of Sinners. *Grant to us, O Lord, to rest in Your promise of life and salvation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Leviticus 18:1-5, Holy is Different**

We emphasize the pronouns in this text. "You shall follow *My* rules and keep *My* statutes and walk in them. *I* am the Lord *your* God." The Law given to the Israelites distinguished them from the Canaanites. It made them different. How they ate, how they dressed, how they washed, when and how they went to church, all these things set them apart from their heathen neighbors. This was difficult. It was always a temptation for the Israelites to act and live and worship like their neighbors, but idolatry leads to slavery and sin leads to death. The Lord puts His people on the path of life, His commandments set us apart, and His promises make us holy. We are His people. God be praised! *O Lord, put to death all idolatry in our hearts, and strengthen our faith for You and our Love for one another. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:20-28, Our Servant King**

We couldn't possibly believe these words unless they were written down: "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (20:28). How could that be? How could Jesus not come to be served and worshiped and adored? He is God is our flesh! But He humbled Himself, taking the form and the work of a Servant, and the death of a Savior. He gave His life as a ransom for many. God be praised! Jesus doesn't come to condemn the world (it is condemned already), but to serve and suffer and save. *O Lord, thank You for Your tremendous sacrifice that gives me life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Timothy 1:5-17, Chief of Sinners**

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am the chief!" (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul, blasphemer, murderer of Christians, persecutor of the church, this one is rescued and redeemed by Jesus, and put into the holy ministry. The Lord's mercy seems to know no bounds. It reaches all the way down to the depths, into the muck, and lifts us out. The Lord's rescue of Paul reminds us that the Lord is in the conversion business. He is a better Savior than we are sinners. If the Lord forgave Paul, He certainly forgives you and me. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus bled and died for me. *Lord, save this chief of sinners. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 84: Jealous of the Sparrows**

The Sons of Korah sing of their jealousy of the sparrows and swallows. You can imagine it. These ancient priests see the birds making their nests under the eaves of the temple in Jerusalem. They see the birds flying out and then returning home to the shadows of the temple, and they think, "How wonderful to have the Lord's house as your house." (See Psalm 84 3-4) "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness" (84:10). *O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You! Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org/support](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org/support)

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com](mailto:aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com). 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](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller**. He is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, TX. He and Keri have four children and live in Round Rock, TX. You can find more theological resources from him at [www.wolfmueller.co](http://www.wolfmueller.co).