

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 9-10, 11

O God, be- / hold our shield,*
and look upon the face of Your a- / nointed.
For a day / in Your courts*
is better than a / thousand.
How lovely is Your tabernacle, O / Lord of hosts!*
My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts / of the Lord;
Blessed are those who dwell / in Your house;*
They will still be / praising You
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God*
than dwell in the tents of / wickedness.
The Lord will give grace and / glory;*
no good thing will / He withhold.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Keep, we implore You, O Lord, Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because the frailty of mankind without You cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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
Now Thank We All Our God

TLH 36, LSB 895
Martin Rinckhart



- 1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices:
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.
- 2. Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
- 3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.



“The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit”

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of September 5-11, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit

The lessons this week instruct us in three ways. First, we should thank God for all His benefits, the large and small blessings which we receive every day. Second, that we should strive to fight against sin and unbelief in us by resisting our flesh and the devil, hearing the promises of God in Christ Jesus all the while. Third, that we should be encouraged for our fight, knowing that God is a gracious Father to us in Christ, that He offers help in time of need, and that His kindness and mercy endure forever, especially for us sinners who are by nature children of wrath and receive forgiveness as a free gift.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:11-19 Return, and Give Thanks

How ungrateful is the human heart! When life is good and full of blessings we think that these things have happened of their own accord, by our own preparations and good fortune, instead of being blessings from God. When things go badly or when we are inconvenienced by the smallest of things our hearts become miserable, thinking that God has dealt with us unjustly. And then, when we are delivered from our affliction by the merciful hand of God, like the nine lepers, we neglect to acknowledge God's great mercy toward us! Lord have mercy on us! Let us give God thanks for all His benefits. Be like the one foreigner who returned to give thanks to God in the person of Jesus. *Lord, forgive my unthankful heart and create in me a new heart. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:105-112 (NUN) Not just for Sundays...

We tend to compartmentalize our life in unhelpful ways. We confine God's word to Sunday, and the rest of the week the wisdom of the world prevails. But as Christ is King of all things, all things having been subjected to Him (Heb 2:8), His Word and promises have infinite value for our whole life. The Word is a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." It is the wisdom of God, given to men for our instruction, for our training in righteousness. The Word alone has the power of God for salvation. It alone endures forever, even as the wisdom of this world is fading away. So take up the Word of God. Let it point you to wisdom.

Let it point you to Jesus - and not just on Sunday. *Give me life, O Lord, according to Your Word! Amen. - (vs. 107)*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:16-24 Crucify the Flesh

The old sinful Adam will be around with us until the Lord comes again. But that does not mean that we tolerate him. We fight him. Indeed, he "should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sin and evil desires" (Small Catechism, Baptism). The Christian heart then is the battle ground between the Spirit and the flesh. The Christian is called to crucify the passions and desires of the flesh, and also believe the promises of Christ for our forgiveness. Lacking one or the other, the Christian falls into a ditch on either side - either despair, or a presumptive, fleshly confidence. God keep us in the fight, trusting in Him and His righteousness alone. *Lord Jesus, forgive me and renew me for the battles ahead. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 17:13, 14 Written in Stone (for a while...)

In Percy Shelly's famous poem Ozymandias, a traveler tells of the inscription upon a wrecked statue in the desert: "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings / Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" But what are those works? "Nothing beside remains. Round the decay Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare..." "Those who turn away from the Lord," says Jeremiah, "shall be written in the earth." Some may be remembered, etched in stone, for a time anyway, but are their names written in the book of life? What are you building for? Would you try to build for this life which will only decay, or would you build for eternity, a beloved child of the real King, known to all the saints and angels to live forever? *Heal me, O Lord...Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-15 Nothing worse?

"Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you," says our Lord. What could be worse than lying paralyzed for 38 years? Eternal death. That is a far worse thing. Willful, persistent sin leads to eternal death, because it is there that faith in the Savior dies. A hardening of the conscience, especially after receiving great mercy from Christ, is deadly. And we avoid this in the same way the Lord instructs the now healed man - we avoid sin and unbelief. We persist in fighting our sinful nature which does not "want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come" and pray that God would "keep us firm in His Word and faith until we die" (Small Catechism). *Jesus, preserve me in the faith, that I may shun evil and rest only in Your forgiveness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-10 The Name of Jesus

"In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth," says St. Peter "rise up and walk!" and the man, once lame, springs to his feet. Miracles of this sort generally don't happen anymore, for the miracles gave visible confirmation to the authority of the Apostles from God. But the miracles also testified to a greater miracle for those who hear, even as Peter preaches immediately after healing the man "repent, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out." By the name of Jesus are your sins also forgiven. His name is given you in baptism. And you gather in His name to receive His Word and sacrament. The miracles were a warm up. The substance yet to come. Hear the preaching of Christ and be forgiven in His name. *Lord, take away my sins in Your name. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 66 Make a Joyful Noise!

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of His name: make His praise glorious." (vs 1). What follows this call to worship is a recounting of the works which God has done toward His people Israel, from the deliverance through the Red Sea and the Jordan, to the laying of heavy burdens upon them to convert them again unto Him. But the greatest of His mercies, the last recounted here, is that God "hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me." This is His great work. That He has mercy on those who fear Him. The great act of deliverance is the forgiveness that He works for His children, even us. *Lord Jesus, blessed are You! Amen.*

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