

**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 **Matthew 20:28**

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

**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.



“Believing Love of All Others”

**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 August 26-September 1, 2018

## THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

The Lord gives us His Law to show us not only what we aren't to do, but also to give us a picture of what our good works are to be. These words give us the shape for loving our neighbor as Christ, the Good Samaritan. He loves us and gave His life up for us as our ransom, thus serving us in love and mercy. Through the same words He also shapes our hearts. He changes a heart of stone to one of flesh that we would delight in His words, walk in them, and serve our neighbor, doing to them likewise as Christ has done to us.

SUN

## SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:23-37 "Faith that Serves"

In one swift shot, our Lord teaches us both about our redemption and our holy living. Who is my neighbor? The one who showed mercy. The Good Samaritan, in showing mercy to the dying man is a wonderful picture of Jesus. He comes into our flesh that He would serve us in love and mercy and bring to us salvation. He binds our wounds and gives us good ointment for our infirmities. But this service to us by our Lord also produces a desire in us to serve our neighbor in love as He did us. Therefore the Lord instructs the rich man and us, "You go and do likewise". This is what our holy living looks like; showing mercy to our neighbor. *Dear Lord, help me to see my neighbors and their need and serve them in mercy as You have served me. Amen.*

MON

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM) "Understanding the Sweet Words"

The psalmist says: "I love Your law!" and that God's words are "sweeter than honey to my mouth!" In all honesty, we don't usually treat the Lord's Word in this manner. There are many words we would rather do without, many are rather bitter to our taste. But the great thing about the Lord's Word is its ability to change hearts of stone to hearts of flesh. As the Word of God comes into our ears, and sits upon our hearts and minds and as we continue to meditate upon it, we gain (as the psalmist states) understanding and wisdom. Through that wisdom, the Scriptures are indeed a delight, and are sweet. *Heavenly Father, grant that I may constantly have Your words before me, that I may grow in understanding and delight in them. Amen.*

TUE

## SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22 "The Lord Keeps His Promises"

The Lord doesn't always act as fast as we may like Him to. Sometimes we don't even see the results of His mercy in our lifetimes. Such was the case with Abraham. The Lord had given a promise to Abraham and his seed. Abraham believed God's promise and the Lord counted that faith as righteousness. Abraham never saw the results of that promise. In fact, many generations after Abraham didn't. But the Lord fulfilled His promise in Christ. So too, we have the promise of eternal life through faith in Christ's death and resurrection on our behalf. We may not see the Lord return in our lifetime, but we know the promise holds true nonetheless. *Lord, help me always to trust in Your promises despite what my eyes see. Amen.*

WED

## SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5 "Not Walking like the World"

The Lord instructs the people of Israel not to walk like the world around them. The Egyptians, the Canaanites, and all others around them worshiped different gods and so lived a certain way. The Lord instructs them instead to follow "MY" rules and "MY" statutes. This was not only to distinguish them as those who worship the true God, but it was also to protect them. Through the Lord's rules and statutes, the Israelites would be guarded against all sorts of bad practices. We too, are protected by the Lord's commandments, as we are instructed to walk in them, and not as the world around us walks. *Blessed Lord, You have given Your commands that we should walk in them for our good. Help me always to rejoice and walk in them. Amen.*

THU

## SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 "Greatness unlike the Gentiles"

James and John thought sitting at Jesus' left and right would be the best place to be, for they thought that would be the place of power and greatness. Jesus, however, teaches that the greatness of the kingdom is unlike greatness in the world. Greatness instead looks like service. It looks like washing the disciple's feet. It looks like feeding crowds and healing diseases. And it looks especially like dying for the sins of the world. As Jesus served His disciples and us through His death and resurrection, so too are we to serve our neighbor in humility, becoming as their servant. This looks strange to the world, but it's normal in God's kingdom. *Lord Jesus, give me humility that I might become as my neighbor's servant for their good. Amen.*

FRI

## SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17 "Where Our Love Comes From"

A pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith: St. Paul says that's where our love comes from. The world around us wants to convince us that love comes from our fleeting and deceitful emotions. Or that love just means letting people do what they like. But those who have been redeemed and renewed by the Word of God know where true love comes from. It's not from the false doctrine of the world, nor from the false doctrine of false teachers. True love comes from sound doctrine, from the pure Law and Gospel of God's Word which gives a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. In those we will not be put to shame. *Lord, thank You for instructing me in sound doctrine. May I always hear it faithfully. Amen.*

SAT

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 "The House of the Lord"

The psalmist describes the House of the Lord in many ways. Dwelling place. Courts. Zion. But in verse 3 he draws a comparison between the birds and us. In the same way that the birds have homes and nests provided for their rest and for the raising of their young, so too the Lord provides a home for us and our children. What's different is that the home He provides for us is His home. He gives us His own dwelling place, the courts of heaven, for us to find peace and rest, forgiveness and salvation, and to raise our children in. There He promises to those who trust in Him that they will be "ever singing Your praise!" *Lord, thank You for granting me Your home as my home. Grant that I may ever sing praises to You there. Amen.*

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