

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 91:15-16, 1-2, 9-10, 13

He shall call upon Me, and I will | answer him;\*  
I will deliver him and | honor him.  
With long life I will sat- | isfy him,\*  
and show him My sal- | vation.”  
He who dwells in the secret place of the | Most High\*  
shall abide under the shadow of the Al- | mighty.  
I will say | of the Lord,\*  
“He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him | I will trust.”  
Because you have made the Lord, who is my | refuge,\*  
even the Most High, your | dwelling place,  
No evil shall be- | fall you,\*  
nor shall any plague come near your | dwelling.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**God the Father, Be Our Stay**

TLH 247, LSB 505  
Martin Luther



(verse 1) God the Father, be our Stay,  
(v2) Jesus Christ, be Thou our Stay,  
(v3) Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,  
Oh, let us perish never.  
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,  
And grant us life forever.  
Keep us from the Evil One;  
Uphold our faith most holy,

Grant us to trust Thee solely  
With humble hearts and lowly.  
Let us put God's armor on:  
With all true Christians running  
Our heavenly race and shunning  
The devil's wiles and cunning.  
Amen, Amen, this be done,  
So sing we, Hallelujah!



“He Suffered Temptation by Satan”

**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: He Suffered Temptation by Satan

When St. Paul meditates on the temptations of Christ he writes, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Jesus' victory over Satan's temptations gives Christians the confidence of faith. Where we would have failed, Jesus succeeded. He succeeded when tempted with bread. He succeeded when promised the Gentile kingdoms. He succeeded when tempted with escape from suffering. Thanks be to God! The holy blood has been shed. The accusation against your sin is silenced. You have access to God's throne for help in the time of temptation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11 "Jesus is Tempted"

Jesus' baptism is only the beginning of His work in the gospels. The first order of business? Beating Satan where Adam failed. When Adam faced the serpent in paradise his belly was full of food. His body was comfortable. His soul was content. Yet the moment that the serpent opened his mouth, Adam failed. Jesus confronted our ancient foe in the wake of Adam's failure, in a world overrun by sin and death. Jesus belly was empty. His body was weak. His soul was vexed. Yet, when the serpent opened his mouth, Jesus trusted in his Father's voice. He fought back with God's Word and prevailed. Jesus, our new Adam, has brought truth and life where once the devil wrought lies and death. *Grant me faith to trust in your Word, O Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32 "Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity..."

"Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." This is the central Christian beatitude from which all other beatitudes flow. The knowledge of God's anger against your sin shines down like the scorching sun at high noon. But seeing your sin in the blinding light of the Law doesn't give you a means to make up your transgressions to God. It dries up your strength. You waste away and die. But when you confess your sin, the Lord speaks a better Word. "For the sake of my Son who has died in your place, I forgive you the iniquity of your sin." *Grant me to confess my sins rightly that I may joy in Christ's mercy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 "The Time of Salvation"

Paul and all Christian pastors labor with Christ for your salvation. Now is the day to hear the preaching and believe. Jesus may return this afternoon. You don't know when. There's no way to game it so you can indulge in sin now and have time for mercy later. Now is the time to confess your sins and to receive God's mercy. Now is the time to strive toward good works with pure minds and clean consciences so that your Lord will find you about His business when He returns in glory. Your pastors, if they are faithful, will not put obstacles in the way of God's mercy. They will not say, "Perform these works first, then you may call yourself Christian." No. They will say, "Yes you are a sinner, but hear and believe that Jesus has saved you." *Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-24 "The Lie and the Seed"

The devil's tactics change, but the central strategy is the same. He teaches the world to despise what God says. Why? Because it's by this Word that man has communion with God and eternal blessing. The devil wants nothing more than to slay souls when he says, "Does God really say that no one can come to the Father except through Jesus? Does God really say that my works are worthless? Does God really say that pure doctrine is important?" These and any other lies the devil can cook up have been overcome. Jesus, the Woman's Seed, has crushed the devil's head. The serpent's fang marks in His hands, feet, and side are the crown jewels of your salvation. The festal shout, "It is finished," has drowned out the lies with God's saving truth. *O Lord, crush the devil under our fee. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-32 "Strengthen Your Brothers"

It is easy to fall into boasting and pride when our bellies are full. So it was for Peter and his brothers the night of Jesus' betrayal. "A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest." It was a worn-out argument by this point. Jesus had rebuked them at least once before (Luke 9:46-48). But the flesh forgets its lessons. It's a thing of the Gentiles to take pride in power. The greatest in Christ's kingdom isn't the man with the glory of strength and influence, but the man who loves his brothers, even to the point of death. Jesus died to save Peter from his boasting. When the apostle was restored he found greatness in being like his Lord. He strengthened his brothers with his preaching and love. *Lord, keep us faithful by Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 1:2-15 "Testing and Tempting"

St. James encourages steadfast faith when we "meet various kinds of trials." The devil wants us to mistake suffering for God's displeasure, that I should doubt if God's promises are really intended for a sinner like me. The devil also insinuates that God is trying to tempt us to sin, that such trials can only end in us forsaking both trust in the promises and resolve in good works. Both conclusions are wrong. God sends His cross as a manifestation of his fatherly will that strengthens rather than weakens our trust in God's mercy found only in Jesus. If we stumble and sin in the midst of testing, it is the fault of our twisted desires. Thanks be to God that even after our flesh causes us to stumble, God's mercy in Christ never waivers. This is our strength. *Strengthen us, O Lord, in our trials. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25-30 "Rest for Your Souls"

You might be tempted to think that Lent is just a long season of dark and brooding thoughts over sin and wickedness. Don't fall into that trap. This is a blessed time when our ancient foes crash and break upon the Rock that is Christ and His Word. This isn't a time to be overcome by sin's pervasive tyranny, or the devil's pomp, but to hear the Father's gracious will. This is the message of Lent: You labor under the law. You're heavy laden under the fears, cares, and anxieties of life. Jesus comes to give you rest. His yoke is light, for it is of faith, not works. In Jesus, as you see the Father's desire to save you with the blood of His own Son upon the cross, you have rest for your souls. *God, grant rest from our enemies through this preaching of grace. Amen.*

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