

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 97:6,9, 1, 10-12**

The heavens declare His | righteousness,\*  
and all the peoples see His | glory.  
For You, Lord, are most high above | all the earth;\*  
You are exalted far a- | bove all gods  
The Lord reigns; let the | earth rejoice;\*  
let the multitude of | isles be glad!  
He preserves the souls | of His saints;\*  
He delivers them out of the hand of the | wicked.  
Light is sown for the | righteous,\*  
and gladness for the up- | right in heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord, you | righteous,\*  
And give thanks at the remembrance of His | holy name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Hebrews 11:16**

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth Your hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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  
**O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

TLH 512, LSB 839  
Johann Herrmann



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|--|---|
| <p>1. O Christ, our true and only Light,<br/>Enlighten those who sit in night;<br/>Let those afar now hear Thy voice<br/>And in Thy fold with us rejoice.</p> <p>3. Oh, gently call those gone astray<br/>That they may find the saving way!<br/>Let every conscience sore oppress<br/>In Thee find peace and heavenly rest.</p> | <p>5. Shine on the darkened and the cold,<br/>Recall the wanderers to Thy fold,<br/>Unite all those who walk apart,<br/>Confirm the weak and doubting heart,</p> <p>6. So they with us may evermore<br/>Such grace with wondering thanks adore<br/>And endless praise to Thee be given<br/>By all Thy Church in earth and heaven.</p> |
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**“God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal”**

**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 January 27-February 2, 2019

### THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus to Heal

It is the blessed will of God that we are forgiven our sins on account of the blood of Jesus. That forgiveness heals us of our iniquities and purifies us of our sins. Because of that forgiveness we are strengthened daily to walk by faith in our lives and vocations, always asking how we may best serve our neighbor. We continue in this service, until that day when our Lord calls us from this life to await the life to come. And though we may not see in this life the promise of the new heavens and new earth, we will see it on the Last Day when we will be raised from the dead for eternity.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:1-13 – God’s Will to Cleanse Us

A leper came to Jesus asking if it was Jesus’ will to cleanse him. Jesus responded, “I will, be clean.” And He gives to us that same word. Except, instead of coming before the Lord as a leper, we come before Him worse, as a sinner, as an enemy of God, as one deserving eternal death. We may be tempted to ask if it is God’s will to cleanse us also, but we need not ask. We need only to look at the cross. We need only look at Jesus’ death for our sake. He prays before His crucifixion “Father, not Mine, but Your will be done.” And that will is that He die for our sake. And in that dying, we are cleansed from our sin. *Lord Jesus, thank You for Your will to forgive my sins. Help me always to trust that Your will is for my good. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 15 – Living Faithfully Under the Lord

The Lord promises that those who are to dwell with Him are to live by faith. By faith we live our lives. By faith we are called righteous. By faith we do and speak the truth. By faith we look to the needs of our neighbor. We guard and protect their reputation and name. We forgive them when they sin against us. We rejoice and uphold those who also confess the faith. We deal fairly with our neighbor and we protect the innocent. And as we live in this manner, as we live by faith, we are promised that no matter how hard the world and the devil fight against us, we will stand safe, and secure, and strong, because God preserves and protects us. *Blessed Lord, may I always be faithful to Your Word, and never doubt Your promises. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:16-21 b – Overcoming Evil by Forgiving

When we are sinned against, the great temptation is to justify our sinning in response. When someone does us wrong, we want to do wrong back because we believe they deserve it. But St. Paul reminds us this is not the way to act. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” We respond to being sinned against by praying and forgiving. Our example for this is how the Lord Himself deals with our sins. He does not hold our sins against us. He does not repay us with evil. He repays us with His own blood. He overcomes our evil with the good of His death and resurrection. *Heavenly Father, keep me from seeking retaliation against my enemies, but instead, to forgive as You have forgiven me. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:6-9 – Healed by Forgiveness

The Lord promises to bring health and healing. We hear this and we get both excited and confused. Excited because, who doesn’t want health and healing? Confused because, who of us knows a world devoid of those things. But what we fail to recognize are two things. First, that the healing promised is what is spoken of in verse 8, to be cleansed from our guilt. To be forgiven of our sins. Second, that the final removal of our ailments, the final fulfillment of health and healing, is when our Lord raises our bodies on the Last Day. Then we will have no more sickness, as well as no more sin, and that will last for eternity. *Lord Jesus, thank You for Your forgiveness and promise to raise me healed on the Last Day. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:5-10 – Faith Makes No Demands

The apostles pray for increased faith. What Jesus says in response is striking. He says at the end that increased faith results in faithful living. And that we in the end get no credit for that faithfulness. We must confess at the last that we’re only doing what we’re supposed to be doing. But that is the response of faith. It doesn’t ask what I get out of my good works, but asks, “how may I serve my neighbor?” Faith doesn’t demand to get credit for our works, but instead confesses, “to God alone be glory.” And the reason for this is because faith also believes and trusts God’s promises, especially the forgiveness of sins. *Heavenly Father, help me to always, by faith, serve my neighbors in my vocations. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:1-16 – Faith Believes What Is Unseen

When we begin construction on a building, we are disappointed if we don’t see its completion. When we teach our children, we fear that we will not live long enough to see the results. For the saints from Adam to the offspring of Abraham, they were given the promise of a new home. None of them saw it, but they trusted the promise. They lived by faith. So too, do we. We’re given the great promise of the resurrection. A home in the new heavens and new earth. A glorified body. But most will not see it in their life, but will have to wait for the life of the world to come. We live by faith, not by sight. *Lord, bless us with unwavering faith in Your promise of the blessed resurrection from the dead. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32 – Purified by Blood

Mary came to the temple to be purified. It was required by the Law. But also required by the Law was the presentation of the first born. And so Jesus was presented to the Lord. Right after His birth, Jesus begins His lifelong fulfillment of the Law. Mary had to, for herself. Jesus also had to, but not for His own holiness, but for the holiness of us, His dear children. And having fulfilled the Law in all its parts, having kept every aspect of it from His birth, Jesus goes to the cross as the one of whom Simeon speaks: salvation, light, and glory. And having shed His blood, we, like Mary, are purified from our sins. *Blessed Lord, thank You for purifying me by Your blood, grant me a steadfast faith and trust in all You have done for my salvation. Amen.*

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