



“He Suffered the Opposition of Hell”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
 for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
 Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
 for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
 the troubles of my heart | have enlarged;*
 bring me out of | my distresses!
 Look on my affliction | and my pain,*
 and forgive | all my sins.
 Keep my soul, and de- | liver me;*
 let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 8:51**
 “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; 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 **Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation** TLH 258, LSB 659
 Matthaues Apelles von Lowenstern



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| <p>1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation.
 Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
 Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
 Lord God Almighty.</p> <p>3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor
 faileth;
 Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin as-
 saileth;
 Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell
 prevaileth;
 Grant us Thy peace, Lord.</p> | <p>4. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts as-
 suaging;
 Peace in Thy Church where brothers are
 engaging;
 Peace when the world its busy war is wag-
 ing.
 Calm Thy foes' raging.</p> <p>5. Grant us Thy help till backward they are
 driven;
 Grant them Thy truth that they may be
 forgiven;
 Grant peace on earth or, after we have striv-
 en,
 Peace in Thy heaven.</p> |
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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 the Opposition of Hell

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever.” So we sing, for God’s Word is the great treasure which is given to us in order to fight against every foe, every temptation, and every danger. It casts out demons, it brings us into all truth, it shines light in darkness, it draws us out of the grave, it is the source of our confidence, our hope, and our praise. In God’s Word we have the promise that we will be given again on the Last Day the privilege to eat from the tree of life and dwell with God for eternity, with sin, death, and devil having been destroyed. All this is ours because of the great power of God’s Holy Word, our great heritage.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28 – Those Who are Blessed

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” All things in this text (and all of Scripture) are oriented toward this point: those who hear and keep God’s Word are the ones who are truly blessed. It is God’s Word, which is the power by which the Lord drives out the demons. It’s the Lord’s Word, which is inscribed on the tablets of stone and which now fights against the demons of Beelzebul. It’s the Lord’s Word, which rescues us from the devil’s house. It’s the Lord’s Word, which declares us to be more blessed even than Mary, who bore the Son of God. No matter the blessing, none is better than hearing and holding onto God’s Word, for it alone brings salvation. *Lord, bless my hearing and keeping of Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43 – The Word that Stands against Our Enemies

The psalmist prays (and teaches us to pray) against all who would cause us harm. At the center of the prayer is that the Lord would send His light and truth, that is, that He would send us His Holy Word, in order to guide us, both away from our enemies and toward His Church. Through God’s Word, the Lord stands as our refuge in every time of trouble, even against the great adversaries of death and devil. Through the Lord’s Word we stand in confidence before the Altar of God as He comes to serve us with His gifts of salvation, life, and forgiveness. Therefore, every hope we have stands firm in the promises given to us through His Word. *Lord, grant to us every blessing through Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-9 – Words which Drive Away Darkness

As Christians we have been called by the Lord’s Word out of the darkness of sin, and into the light of Christ. St. Paul therefore bids us to live, no longer in the darkness, but in the light, as children of the light. In this life, however, there is much temptation to continue in darkness, and especially to listen to the words of darkness, or, as St. Paul phrases it, “empty words.” While these words sound good initially, they are in the end, nothing but emptiness, darkness, and death. We ignore those words and instead continue in the words which illumine our path, guide our footsteps, and keep us in Christ’s eternal light, which chases away all darkness. *Lord, keep us always in the light of Your Holy Word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:1-7 – The Word that Conquers Death

When David is spared from the hand of his enemies, he sings this great song of praise to the Lord. We learn here, that we too may sing songs of praise to God. The same enemies from which the Lord spared David, He has spared us from also. Particularly, David thanks God for being spared from death and the fear of death: “For the waves of death encompassed me...the snares of death confronted me.” We too must come face to face with death, and the devil uses that reality to drive us to despair. But the Lord brings the comfort of His word in the face of death, showing us the greater reality that Christ has broken its bars and freed us from being captive to it. *Lord, let me never fear my death since You have conquered it by Yours. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:42-51 – The Word of Truth and Life

Jesus calls the devil the father of those fighting against Him. But’s the devil is more than that. He is the father of lies, the father of death, the one who does not stand in the truth. And here we ought to understand how all of this stems from him fighting against the Lord’s Word. To be severed from the Word is to be severed from the truth, and from life itself (as happened to Adam and Eve). To believe the word of the devil is to believe a lie. Though the devil is indeed a powerful foe, that which he fights against is his undoing. Jesus says, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.” In the Word we have that which saves us from every attack the devil would send our way. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 2:1-7 – The Tree of Promise

The tree of life appears in the opening chapters of Genesis with the promise that whoever eats of it shall live forever. However, after the fall, the tree disappears from the narrative of God’s Word, until Revelation. Here, we are shown the great promise, that the tree is not, gone, but waiting for us in the great resurrection. “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” As St. Paul reminds us in Romans, we are more than conquerors through Christ, who has loved us and given His life for us. In Christ we are declared to have conquered sin, death, and devil by His blood, and so we look forward to again being given to eat and so live with God for eternity. *Lord, thank You for the victory in Your death. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 – Words which are Heard and Answered

David teaches us why we pray with all boldness and confidence to the Lord. It is because He promises to hear us and answer us, not only in good times, but also and especially in times of distress. When the devil comes and tempts us to despair, to think that the world will win in its battle against us, to think that our sin is too great to be forgiven, to think that the grave will be our final destination, the Lord reminds us through the truth of His Word that He preserves our life. He fights against all our adversaries and He forgives all our sins through the precious blood of Christ. He has, in Christ and His death, given us the greatest sign of His favor toward us, and reminded us that we always have His help and comfort. *Lord, hear my prayer and answer me. Amen.*

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