

**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 **2 Samuel 22:2**

He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer."

**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  
Matthaus Apelles von Lowenstern



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



**"He Suffered the Opposition of Hell"**

**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 March 19-25, 2017

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Opposition of Hell

Over and over again the Scriptures paint a picture of a God who will not sit idly in the heavens while we suffer under the weight of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. He takes flesh to free us from bondage and death. He is crucified for sinners who cannot save themselves. Lent is a season that directs us to our own frailty and sin, but even more, to a God who is crucified to save us from our enemies. When God promises to be our rock and fortress, He promises help to us who cannot save ourselves.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28: Christ sets us free from the power of the evil one

Stockholm syndrome is where the captive begins to love the captor. I can relate, because the last thing I want to hear when it comes to the word sin is “resist.” The goods are at peace when the strong man guards his place. Christ is not content to leave you in control of the evil one. He overcame Beelzebul by the cross and the grave to win you back. In baptism, He names you as His own and gives you His Holy Spirit who daily drowns the old Adam (who hates that word “resist”) and raises up the new man. *Lord Jesus Christ, bind the evil one and set us free to live in righteousness and purity forever. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43: Can it bring Christ down from the cross?

Our enemies surround us. The culture is against us. It looks like God lost control. Maybe He’s punishing us. The psalmist finds shelter at the altar of the Lord. Things look bad. Fine. Can any of it bring Christ down from the cross? Christ was crucified for you. God already punished Him; it is finished. The victory is ours. Why are you cast down? It is still finished. Nobody can take that from you, no matter what they say. If it can’t bring Christ down from the cross, the holy hill of Calvary is enough to save us. *Lord Jesus, send out Your Light and Your truth and lead us into the way of peace You won by Your death and resurrection. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-9: Love is no joke

Let there be no crude joking. The 6th Commandment condemns a whole lot more than we want it to. Walk in love, as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5 culminates with marriage being a picture of Christ and the church. When we diminish expressions of love to something crude, we paint a bigger picture than we intend. When love becomes something shallow and insignificant, the expressions of God’s love follow. You are Christ’s beloved, and His love has a depth seen in His cross for you. He will not let you be His joke. Love does not relent in saving sinners. *Lord Jesus, though we do not speak as we ought, show forth Your love in forgiving us by Your cross. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:1-7: God answers prayers from the cross.

David needed help. He prayed and God helped him. We need help too. We pray, but things still look the same. That’s actually good. God still hears us as we pray from His temple. Remember Who your God is. This makes everything okay, even when the situation screams otherwise. Yours is the God who gives refuge and salvation to sinners. Yours is the Jesus who was crucified for you. Yours is the God who is victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. The Lord will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies. *O LORD our God, be our rock and our fortress and our deliverer. Give to us refuge and salvation. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 8:42-51: What kind of Jesus do we have?

What kind of Jesus do we have? The world wants a Jesus who is nothing more than a friend who reminds us never to be mean or hypocritical. If that’s all He is, then we’re still in our sin. The proof is that we will still die. Jesus says “if anyone keeps my Word, he will never see death.” Keep does not mean obey. It means treasure, guard, and cherish. It means fear, love, and trust. Our faith is that Jesus is God who died for sinners, for me, for you, for all. He saves us from death by defeating it Himself. *Lord Jesus Christ, Your word is truth. Send Your Holy Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep us that we may always cling to You alone and so never see death. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Revelations 2:1-7: Do not abandon the works of love

Pure doctrine is a must. Without the truth revealed in God’s Word, we would all fall back on our own idols. However, our religion is more than facts. It is a fact that Jesus died on the cross, but more, it is an expression of love that redeems sinners and saves you. The devil knows the facts, but has no love. To the church today as to the church in Ephesus, do not abandon love or love’s works. Love does not just serve the neighbor. Love first seeks where God may be found to receive God’s own love for us. *Lord Jesus Christ, grant to us in Word and Sacrament a measure of Your love that we may so love our neighbor. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86: Our God is different

Our God is different from every other false god. Ours is not just a God who claims to have power. Our God is merciful. Our God works in the day of trouble, not for those who have earned His favor, but for sinners. Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He shows us a sign of His favor: a cross. His own Son given in an act of power that blots out the sun, but even more, an act of mercy that gives His life for all the world. *O Lord, turn to me and be gracious to me; give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant. Amen.*

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