

“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5

Vindicate | me, O God,*
and plead my cause against an ungodly | nation;
Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man!*
for You are the God | of my strength; (Psalm 43:1-2)
Oh, send out Your light | and Your truth!*
Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your | holy hill.
Then I will go to the al- | tar of God,*
to God my ex- | ceeding joy.
Why are you cast down, | O my soul?*
And why are you disquieted with- | in me?
Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,*
the help of my countenance | and my God.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 27:11

“Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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
Christ, the Life of All the Living

TLH 151, LSB 420
Ernst Christoph Homburg



1. Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe,—
Through thy sufferings, death, and
merit
I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

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 29-April 4, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

When fears assail us, our flesh reacts out of self-defense and self-preservation. This is the world's way. The ends justify the means and undoubtedly more pain is the result. Yet, when humanity comes into contact, by grace, with God's Way, with the Savior, it's the opposite. Jesus did not strive for self-preservation or self-defense. Instead, He abandoned Himself out of pure Divine love. Heavenly love shows up at the cross. The world's way is centered on self, but there is the new Way. Heaven comes to earth in our Lord Jesus. God is not focused on self, but on the neighbor. He lives for another purpose, mercy and forgiveness. *O Lord, keep us in You and reveal to us the enemy of the sinful self. Amen.*

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 Jesus is Savior

Many of the people in Jesus' day resisted His true identity, especially those with religious position and influence. Instead of trusting Christ, they accused Him. Rather than learning from Jesus, they sought to kill Him. Today, apart from faith, many cannot see that Jesus' true identity is God eternal, Son of God and Son of man. Sadly, those who need Him most are still hostile toward Him, and often miss the simple truth. God the Father has glorified Jesus for the purpose of saving sinners. *Father, break our pride and reveal Jesus as Savior. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 Trust in God

Every person experiences feelings of betrayal. Expectations of others often go without fulfillment. The actions of even trusted leaders can at times shock and bewilder us. In Psalm 54, David hides in the wilderness of Ziph from His attacker, King Saul. But the Ziphites betray him to try and gain Saul's favor. This reminds us not to place our trust in men. But like the Psalm says, especially in times of betrayal, "God is our helper...His eye has looked in triumph over our enemies." *Lord, help us recall Your faithfulness, forever and ever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 Jesus in our Intercessor

So many live with a burdened conscience, trying to live as their own intercessor between themselves and God. Many struggle in vain to gain favor with God simply by extraordinary effort and care. All the while, Jesus alone is our Great High Priest. He has purified our consciences before God through His sacrifice on the cross. He has redeemed us and blessed us with an eternal inheritance in the heavens. We cannot redeem or intercede for ourselves. *O Lord Jesus, show us again that by Your sacrifice You have conquered our guilty consciences forever. In Your holy Name, Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 God Never Leaves Us

Life can be filled with uncertainty. For Abram (Abraham) and many today, God calls us to leave our home. Yet, in Christ we are assured that we are never without God's blessings and care. Some days the call to leave home is temporary, a hospital stay, a simple 9 to 5'er workday or maybe even a more permanent move to a new town. When the call comes, in faith we load up again, sure that like in Abram's life, God will never leave us. *Lord Jesus, go with us, ease our discontentment and bless others through our love, we pray. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 Truth in Christ

When God's Truth, Christ, is present, division is often the result. There's no problem with the Truth. Rather, sin and dishonesty seek divisions in order to hide. God's servants, Christians that believe God's Word is Truth, often find themselves suffering like the prophets of old or watching as the Truth brings division. Take heart, God's forgiveness is at work through His Truth as the Law leads people to repentance and the Gospel to grace. *Lord Jesus, remind us that Your Light shines in the darkness. It's the darkness that fails to understand. Your Truth is present to bless and not curse. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 God's Wisdom

Certainly nothing about God is foolish! But the apostle uses this comparison rhetorically to make sure his point is crystal clear. What the world calls wisdom is foolishness to God and what is God's wisdom, to the world, the death of Christ for sinners, is seen as foolishness apart from faith. God has chosen the simple and lowly things to bring His great gifts; His Word combined with bread, wine, and water. These basic things, when combined with God's Promises give righteousness, sanctification and redemption! *Lord help us to gain heavenly wisdom through Your gifts which the world calls foolishness. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 Salvation God's Way

When life is difficult we often hear folks say, "Why doesn't God, if He is good (sarcasm), fix the world and take away all trouble?" These doubters don't care about the collateral damage inflicted on Christ's dear people. God has fixed things! His way is to show love and care to all (1Timothy 2:4). Mankind's "fixing," as they imagine it, would undoubtedly mean war and more unnecessary bloodshed. God has a better Way! God's solution is to sacrifice His Son to bring life & salvation to all. *Teach us Your way O Lord, lead us on a level path (Psalm 27:11). Amen.*

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