

## 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 27:9

“Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!”

## 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,<br>Christ, the Death of death, our foe,<br>Who, Thyself for me once giving<br>To the darkest depths of woe,—<br>Through thy sufferings, death, and<br>merit<br>I eternal life inherit:<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. | 6. Thou hast suffered great affliction<br>And hast borne it patiently,<br>Even death by crucifixion,<br>Fully to atone for me;<br>Thou didst choose to be tormented<br>That my doom should be prevented.<br>Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,<br>Dearest Jesus, unto Thee. |
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**Around the Word Devotions + March 18-24, 2018**  
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**“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”**

**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 18-24, 2018

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

God saves not by giving us power or wealth, but by dying on the cross. This is not for the worthy but for sinners. It's for you. It's a scandalous message, yet the hope of all who trust in Him. We find our victory in His defeat, our strength in His weakness, and our courage in His promises. Lent fixes the cross before our eyes, not simply that we would be sad, but that we would be honest about our sin and the death that it yields, and then find an answer in what Christ has done for us. He pours forth the gifts won by His blood in His temple, that we who gather would find forgiveness, life, and salvation.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 Jesus isn't just old. He's God.

I have the same problem as the Jews. I can't get over the fact that Abraham died. I see pain and suffering and death. Jesus promised we would never taste death if we believe in Him, but the prophets died. "Who do you make yourself out to be" is a fair question. Before Abraham was, I AM. They don't get mad because Jesus says He's old, but because Jesus says He's God. I AM. YAHWEH. The God who saved Abraham from death. The God who will die to destroy death that we will never taste it.

*Lord God, even as You saved Abraham from death that He might rejoice in the day of Your salvation, fix our eyes upon the cross that we might receive the same. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 Tense Matters

Selah. Rest. David takes a breath and the whole Psalm changes. O God, ruthless men seek my life. Present tense. Selah. Rest. God is my helper. He has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. Perfect tense. A past event with present implication. He has saved me and even now I am saved, even while strangers rise against me. God has already worked your salvation. Christ has been crucified that you are even now saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Selah. Rest. Take a breath.

*O God, as You have worked our salvation of old, rescue us from every present need of body and soul. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 God Died for You

God died for you. The Son stood before the Father and bled for you. In a world where the conscience is constantly assaulted, this is where we stand. The High Priest offered up holy and precious blood that we would be redeemed. Of all the things that we do to deaden guilty consciences, Christ makes it alive by dying Himself. You are holy. Not because of dead works you do, but because of the blood of Christ. Be honest with your conscience. It doesn't need to die. God died for you. Nothing you've done can change it.

*Heavenly Father, look to the all availing sacrifice of Your Son that we who You have called would be received into Your Kingdom by His merit and grant us clean consciences in the same. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 More than a Dynasty

God made a great nation from one man by putting His own Son into the picture through the lineage of Abram to die, and thus conquer sin and death forever. This is no dynasty. This is the lineage of salvation. Christ Jesus was sent into the world through the seed of Abram to make him into a blessing, that we, under the weight of sin, would be rescued and brought through death to life. To look to Abram's lineage is to look to Jesus and find blessing, and to curse this lineage is to curse God Himself.

*Heavenly Father, You have made us Yours through Abram's Seed. Even as we receive this blessing through His blood, let us rejoice in the promise made to Abram and to us. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 Crosses Hurt, but they Save.

Christianity is a sword that cuts through families. It isn't personal. Their real problem isn't with you, but with God. That doesn't make it easier. Especially when the 4th Commandment tells us to honor our parents, to raise up our children in faith. We cannot despise them, yet whoever loves these more than God is unworthy. Our hope is not navigating the eggshells and landmines. Hope in God. The Father set Himself against His own Son to redeem sinners, you and your family alike. He bears your cross for you. Be near that cross. Crosses hurt, but they save too.

*Lord God, fix our eyes upon Your salvation that we may find comfort for our pains in Your mercy. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 Same Thing Every Week.

Christ crucified for sinners. Every week. Some get tired of it. No signs. Little wisdom. Feels like there should be more. Signs. Wisdom. We imagine how full the church would be if the pastor actually healed the sick. If he wasn't so awkward. Paul could have given it. He was brilliant, did miracles, yet he only wants to preach Christ for their forgiveness. We do miracles here, just not the signs the world is looking for. We see Jesus. Body and blood truly present to forgive your sins in mercy and love. This is the power and wisdom of God for you. *Lord, show Your wisdom in preaching Christ crucified to sinners, who became our redemption that we may boast in You. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 God's Temple is a Place of Shelter for You

The shelter that we're so desperate for is given to us in God's temple. In Word and in Sacrament, God grants a life that our enemies cannot take from us. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh are undone in the mercy of the Cross. In the Supper we are concealed under His tent. We find joy in His shelter and presence. We don't measure God's absence by the presence of enemies, but by His promises that deliver victory over them. Looking to God's promises, we wait for the Lord, full of courage.

*Forsake us not, O God of our salvation. Show us Your steadfast love, that we may find joy in Your salvation. Amen.*

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