

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 31:9, 15, 17, 1-2, 5, 24**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in / trouble;\*  
deliver me from the hand of my / enemies.  
Do not let me be a- / shamed, O Lord,\*  
for I have called u- / pon You.  
In You, O Lord, I / put my trust;\*  
let me never / be ashamed;  
Deliver me in Your / righteousness.\*  
Bow down Your ear to me; deliver me / speedily.  
Into Your hand I commit my / spirit;\*  
You have redeemed me, O Lord / God of truth.  
Be of good courage, and He shall streng- / then your heart,\*  
all you who hope / in the Lord.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 24:27**  
For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. be the coming of the Son of Man.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy unto Your humble servants, that we who put no trust in our own merits may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment, but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee** TLH 407  
Valerius Herberger



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|---|---|
| <p>1. Farewell I gladly bid Thee,<br/>False, evil world, farewell.<br/>Thy life is vain and sinful,<br/>With Thee I would not dwell.<br/>I long to be in heaven,<br/>In that untroubled sphere<br/>Where they will be rewarded<br/>Who served their God while here.</p> | <p>3. When darkness round me gathers,<br/>Thy name and cross, still bright,<br/>Deep in my heart are sparkling<br/>Like stars in blackest night.<br/>O heart, this image cherish:<br/>The Christ on Calvary,<br/>How patiently He suffered<br/>And shed His blood for me!</p> |
| <p>2. By Thy good counsel lead me,<br/>O Son of God, my Stay;<br/>In each perplexing trial<br/>Help me, O Lord, I pray.<br/>Mine hour of sorrow shorten,<br/>Support my fainting heart,<br/>From every cross deliver,<br/>The crown of life impart.</p>                 | <p>5. Lord, write my name, I pray Thee,<br/>Now in the Book of Life<br/>And with all true believers<br/>Take me where joys are rife.<br/>There let me bloom and flourish,<br/>Thy perfect freedom prove,<br/>And tell, as I adore Thee,<br/>How faithful was Thy love.</p>    |



**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 November 13-19, 2016

## THEME OF THE WEEK: The Age Before the End

It makes sense that we should be looking forward to tomorrow. It may be thinking about what needs to be done, something exciting going to happen, or looking forward to the normalcy that tomorrow will bring. In our minds we live with tomorrow always on the horizon but there will be a day when there is no tomorrow. Eventually there will be an end. We will find rest with Jesus through death or he will return with a loud trumpet blast. As we look forward to that day, we recognize that tomorrow may be that day. So we live in the present and we have faith in Jesus. For that is the ultimate preparation for tomorrow.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24: 15-28: The Age of Suffering

In reading the passage for today it is easy to become more than a little discouraged by the words of Jesus. He doesn't seem encouraging to the people who will live through the time that he describes. It is an age of suffering where there will be false prophets and the abomination of desolation. In these times we are to cling tightly to the Word of God which we know to be the truth. In this truth you have the answer to false prophets and the beauty of God's abundance. Jesus will continue to be with you during this age of suffering because soon He will deliver you from this present evil age. *Lord, let Your Word of truth have free course in my life. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 116: The Age of Reversal

Snares of death, pangs of Sheol, distress, anguish, death, tears, stumbling. The beauty of what the Lord does for you is He takes all of these bad and negative things and turns them to good. He has inclined His ear to you and delivered your soul. He preserves and cares for you and makes you to walk in the land of the living. You are precious in the sight of the Lord and even as all of the bad things happen around you, there is a great reversal that is given to you. Jesus suffered these so that you may have His life, mercy, forgiveness, love, and grace. Praise the Lord for all His benefits to you. *Lord, You have delivered me and given me life, cause my lips to praise Your name. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: The Age of Hope

Grief is a constant reminder that death is all around us in this life. Grief is that sorrow and remembrance of those who have died and who we now miss. Grief looks to empty chairs, empty beds, empty activities, empty lives; and finds great sorrow. But we do not grieve as those without hope. Jesus Christ has destroyed death by His death and in His life has given life to those who die in Him. Our hope is in someone outside of ourselves. As death and grief persist, encourage one another with the words that hope in Jesus Christ never disappoints. We will be raised on the last day and our hope will be fulfilled. *Jesus, thank You for the life given to me and all those who have faith in You. Amen.*



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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49: 12-17: The Age of Remembrance

How easy it is for us as sinners to forget about the joy of being a child of God. We forget His loving care and imagine that we are on our own trying to struggle through this world. We may forget about some aspect of God or something He has done, but He has never forgotten. You have been engraved on the palms of the hands of Jesus. The nail marks are testimony to you that you are never forgotten. Jesus has gone through death and the grave to bring you to everlasting life. You may forget, but the Lord remembers you. *Heavenly Father, bring to my remembrance Your loving care at all times. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 17: 20-33: The Age of Preparation

Noah had warned the people and spoken to them God's Word. The people of Sodom knew their sins. Jesus had preached and taught and still the people cried out, "Crucify him!" You may not know when the day will come and others may be telling you to look and see the coming signs of the end. However, instead of looking we should be prepared. We are prepared for that unknown coming of Jesus by having faith in Him. The kingdom of God is coming in ways that cannot be observed but yet you can observe, hear, and taste the love of God that comes to you in the Word and Sacrament. These are your preparations because they make you to be one with Jesus. *Jesus, prepare me for Your coming. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3: 3-15: The Age of Destruction

It was through water that God created all things and then saved Noah. It was with water that God joined His Word and brought you into His most holy, Triune Name. Water serves as a reminder of God's creative work in this world and in you. Fire, on the other hand, is the means of destruction. Repeatedly hell is pictured with fire and Peter tells us that the world will be set on fire and dissolved. As Christians, we need not fear this heaven and earth passing away because that which is destroyed will be recreated anew. A recreated Garden of Eden will be the perfect place for you to live forever. *Father, keep me in faith until that day of Your Son's coming. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18: 7-19: The Age of Rescue

Kids love to think of themselves as superheroes; those people of stupendous powers who have the power to rescue those who need help. Kids identify with heroes not just because of the special powers but because they recognize that helping people is a good thing and it is good to be that person who helps. The age has come; it began with the serpent, when God's people needed rescue. Jesus rescues us from sin and death. "He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me." (v. 17) Superheroes make great stories, but the real rescue that matters is the story that's true: Jesus. *Jesus, thanks for rescuing me. Amen.*

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