

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 24:23**

“For as lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will 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



1. Farewell I gladly bid Thee,
False, evil world, farewell.
Thy life is vain and sinful,
With Thee I would not dwell.
I long to be in heaven,
In that untroubled sphere
Where they will be rewarded
Who served their God while here.

2. By Thy good counsel lead me,
O Son of God, my Stay;
In each perplexing trial
Help me, O Lord, I pray.
Mine hour of sorrow shorten,
Support my fainting heart,
From every cross deliver,
The crown of life impart.

3. When darkness round me gathers,
Thy name and cross, still bright,
Deep in my heart are sparkling
Like stars in blackest night.
O heart, this image cherish:
The Christ on Calvary,
How patiently He suffered
And shed His blood for me!

5. Lord, write my name, I pray Thee,
Now in the Book of Life
And with all true believers
Take me where joys are rife.
There let me bloom and flourish,
Thy perfect freedom prove,
And tell, as I adore Thee,
How faithful was Thy love.



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: The Age Before the End

Jesus says that the destruction poured out on Jerusalem in the year 70 would have consumed the world if those days had not been cut short. But for you, God withdrew His anger. In the years following Jerusalem's destruction He gave the Gospel free course to be preached everywhere. Despite the devil, world, and flesh's opposition, the Word prevails. Babies are baptized. Sinners repent. Christians die with certain hope that they will rise as their Savior is risen. Soon Jesus will come in glory, not in a corner, or out in the wilderness, but as lightning in the sky. Wait for the Lord. He is near. He will redeem our bodies as He has redeemed our souls.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:15-28 "Signs and Wonders"

You would expect "great signs and wonders" to be confirmations of godliness in these last days. But Jesus says it's the opposite. False Christ's and false prophets do the wonders and signs "so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect." Don't judge a man or his message by signs and wonders. Judge everything against the words of Jesus. "If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). They'll try to convince you that salvation is found in with the mystics in a corner. Don't listen. They'll say that He's found out in the wilderness of asceticism and works. Don't go. Stay in the Scriptures. *Grant me to be content with your Word, dear Jesus, that I may remain with the Saints. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 116 "A Precious Death"

The world ends, everything dies, and that's it. Right? No. Through Jesus' empty tomb and resurrected body, the end of the world and death are not your end. Life awaits. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." To call death good is scandalous. To call it precious is even worse, an outrage. Not in God's sight. Death is precious because it's been made holy by Jesus' life. Death is precious because it's the beginning of life and glory for all the saints, as they await the moment that their souls are reunited with their remains. When you are brought low by suffering, sickness, and death God will save you for Christ's sake. *What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "Waking from Sleep"

Don't be ignorant. Don't grieve like the rest of the world that neither knows Jesus nor the power of His voice. In death, their platitudes ring hollow. "He's in a better place." How do they know? "He's at peace now." How can they be sure? "He lives on in our memories and hearts." And when you die, what then? Is he lost forever? This is grieving without hope. Find your hope in Jesus. Grieve with the knowledge and wisdom you've been taught by Good Friday's divine blood and Easter Sunday's victorious song. Those who die in their Savior's arms aren't lost. They sleep. They only await Jesus' cry of command, the voice of an archangel, and the sound of the trumpet of God. *When I die, wake me from my sleep, dear Jesus, so I can meet You in the air. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:12-17 "Jesus Never Forgets"

Since the days of Pentecost, when the first Christians returned to their far-flung homes to announce the arrival of the Lord's favor through repentance, Baptism, and faith in Jesus' name, the church has been found in all climbs and places. Some lands receive the gospel for a time, but then they reject it and the mobs chase their seasonably fashionable false gods. Nevertheless, a remnant remains. The temptation is for the remnant to think that they've been forgotten, that the godlessness of one's neighbor's means that God doesn't care about you anymore. That's false. God will not forget you. "Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands." *Dear Lord, remember me in my afflictions and send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen my faith. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 "To Demand a Soul at Midnight"

"One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Our flesh makes the counterargument. It says that all worries, fears, and anxieties will be overcome with just a bit more money, the right car, the right friends, and the right job. God forbid we get our hearts' desires! Then the real danger begins. Earthly enjoyment drowns out heavenly blessings. Mammon's demands to be worshiped by building bigger and bigger barns. No one can resist. It ends in a second. The Lord says, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you." Jesus could care less about fights over mammon. He desires your soul. His blood has paid its price. *Lord God, turn my heart from worshiping mammon so I can find true treasure and joy in Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3:3-15 "Fire and Righteousness"

Scoffers say, "Where's your Jesus? Shouldn't He be here already?" But they're only hardening their hearts against the truth. This world cannot last forever. Its fiery destruction is inevitable. The ungodly won't survive. Then, why the wait? "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." Your heavenly Father loves you. Repent. Turn from your sin and be forgiven. Trust in the promise. Your sins no longer hold you. In this mercy, find delight in a life full of godliness and holiness. The earth may burn, but your eternal home of righteousness in the new heavens and earth will never be destroyed. *Come quickly, Jesus. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18:16-30 "The Value of a Good Conscience"

A good conscience's value can hardly be estimated. The merciful man, who is free to be generous with kindness and forgiveness because he knows God's kindness in Christ, finds God's mercy in all he does. The blameless man, who is busy in prayer and good works, never doubts God's intentions. Those have been made sufficiently clear in the preaching of the prophets and apostles. The purified, sanctified in body and soul by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, will see the purity of God's holiness in heaven. The crooked conscience finds God's anger and displeasure. He has no confidence and peace. Dear saint, be humble and be lifted by the Lord by His infallible Word. *For Christ's sake, show me Your mercy, and teach me to be merciful. Amen.*

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