

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Revelation 12:11; Psalm 33:1, 13-15**

They overcame him by the blood / of the Lamb*
and by the word of their testi- / mony,
They did not / love their lives*
even / unto death.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you / righteous!*
For praise from the upright is / beautiful.
The Lord looks from / heaven;*
He sees all the / sons of men.
From the place of His dwell- / ing He looks*
on all the inhabitants / of the earth;
He fashions their hearts indi- / vidually;*
He considers / all their works.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Philippians 3:20**
“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O almighty God, who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys that you have prepared for those who unfeignedly love You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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
Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation

TLH 466
Author Unknown



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| <p>1. Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
Thou the Head and Corner-stone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
And her Confidence alone.</p> | <p>3. Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory,
Evermore with Thee to reign.</p> |
| <p>2. To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With Thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear Thy servants as they pray
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within these walls always.</p> | <p>4. Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory,
While unending ages run.</p> |



“The Blessedness of the Saints of God”

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 4-10, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Blessedness of the Saints of God

The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh: these wage war against the faithful. God has promised to conquer sin on the cross and defeat the devil, AND to work through a world broken by our sin, to sustain us until we are brought into the resurrection. Government has never been a perfect thing since the fall. God has still worked through it. We sinners call Jesus Lord. He is Lord of the devil's too. He's even Lord to a world set against Him. God isn't just in control. He has promised to work to the goal of your salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15-22 – What Belongs to Caesar that God Didn't Give?

Church and state don't always play nice. It's left us calling the enemy of our enemies "friend." We'd like clearer lines between church and state, retreating into "our territory." We don't feel safe. We like this verse because we think it shows a separation between church and state, but God created both. He just works differently through each. To "render unto Caesar" is to trust that God can work even through sinful governments. Jesus called right "right" and wrong "wrong" to kings and servants alike. We don't change our ideals. We trust that God can work through Caesar. *Lord God, aid our president and government and lend to them wisdom, working through them for the good of all. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124 Calamity Isn't Proof There's No God

It's easy to assume every pain I have is evidence of the absence of God and His favor. David doesn't cite his enemies or the floods as proof there is no such thing as a loving God. He recognizes that his being brought through them is wholly of God's mercy. God doesn't will sinners to sin, or find pleasure in the damage our sins have waged on creation. God doesn't promise a world with no sinners (you included), but promises to bring the faithful through flood, torrent, and enemies alike in spite of our sin. *Deliver us from our enemies, O LORD, for our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:17-21 They Glory in their Shame, We Glory in the Cross of Christ.

The world walks as enemies of Christ. They aren't just content to sin in secret. They glory in what should be shameful. They name organizations dedicated to immorality. Does proving them wrong save you? The world doesn't need culture warriors. It needs Jesus, who bore the cross even for his enemies. We preach Christ crucified. We call evil shameful, but also speak forgiveness. We don't align with the world, our citizenship is in heaven. Let us glory, not in winning fights, but in the cross of Christ. *Lord God, call to repentance those who war against You, and cover their sins by Your blood, that we may all be transformed to be like You in the resurrection. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 32:1-8 Our Lord Stands on Noble Things.

Our Lord stands on noble things. His promises stand on a firm foundation. The world calls evil "good" and good "evil," but our Lord promises a place and a time where what has been made wrong through sin will be made right again. This kingdom comes not by our building something perfect, but from the noble act of sacrifice where Jesus died for the world to redeem it. In days where fools are called "noble" and scoundrels "honorable," look to the Lord and know He plans noble things. He has died and is risen to redeem us. *King of Kings, make righteous what sin has wronged through Your noble sacrifice, and call us ever to see and speak the truth in Your mercy. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:41-44 God Doesn't Care about Percentages, Just Trust.

Want to make people argue in church? Talk about tithing. God clearly doesn't care how much money we give. The widow gave very little. So we argue about percentages: "She gave all she had. You should give at least 10%." Probably. The real issue is our fear. We're afraid. The widow is not commended for her generosity, but her faith. Our God, Who even allowed her husband to die, will sustain her. Her tithe isn't a bribe, but a recognition. "This mite belongs to God, and so do I. In wealth or poverty, He will not forsake me." *Heavenly Father, use the gifts You have given us to the glory of Your holy will. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:1-7 Your Government is a Gift from God.

God gave you President Trump. God also gave you President Obama. Does God give us bad gifts? Authority comes from God, and with purpose. Government's role is to punish evil and reward good. But we have gotten quite used to calling the party we didn't vote for evil. Respect to whom respect is owed. Honor to whom honor is owed. Not because they earned it. Not even because they're right all the time. Because God works through sinners to punish evil and reward good through them. It's God's government, after all. *Heavenly Father, sustain our government and cause peace and prosperity to flourish in our land through them. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31, third part Oh, How Abundant is Your Goodness.

We live in a besieged land. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh wage war against us. We take refuge in the Lord. He hides us from the accusations of the devil, clothing us in baptismal robes of Christ's righteousness. He hears our pleas for mercy and answers our prayers for help. He preserves the faithful unto our resurrection, free from our enemies. It's a scary world. We're scary, fallen creatures. Be strong, and let your heart take courage. Even as we wait for the Lord, we are shown where He has already worked to save us. *O Lord, hear our voice and our cries for mercy, rescue us from the evils of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh, and bring us into Your kingdom. Amen.*

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