



“Resisting the Unforgiving Flesh”

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 130:4-5, 1-2, 7-8**

If You, Lord, should mark in- / iquities,\*  
 O Lord, / who could stand?  
 But there is forgive- / ness with You,\*  
 that You / may be feared.  
 Out of the depths I have cried to / You, O Lord;\*  
 Lord, / hear my voice!  
 Let Your ears be at- / tentive\*  
 to the voice of my suppli- / cations.  
 O Israel, hope / in the Lord;\*  
 for with the Lord there is / mercy,  
 With Him is abundant re- / demption,\*  
 and He shall redeem Israel from all his in- / iquities.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Philippians 1:6**  
 “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 O God, our Refuge and Strength, the Author of all godliness, be ready, we implore You, to hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; 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 **My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker**  
 TLH 34, LSB 820  
 Johann Gramann



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. My soul, now bless thy Maker!<br/>                 Let all within me bless His name<br/>                 Who maketh thee partaker<br/>                 Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.<br/>                 Forget Him not whose meekness<br/>                 Still bears with all thy sin,<br/>                 Who healeth all thy weakness,<br/>                 Renews thy life within:<br/>                 Whose grace and care are endless<br/>                 And saved thee through the past;<br/>                 Who leaves no sufferer friendless,<br/>                 But rights the wronged at last.</p> | <p>4. God's grace alone endureth,<br/>                 And children's children yet shall prove<br/>                 How He with strength assureth<br/>                 The hearts of all that seek His love.<br/>                 In heaven is fixed His dwelling,<br/>                 His rule is over all:<br/>                 Angels, in might excelling,<br/>                 Bright hosts, before Him fall.<br/>                 Praise Him, who ever reigneth,<br/>                 All ye who hear His Word,<br/>                 Nor our poor hymns disdaineth-<br/>                 My soul, oh, bless the Lord!</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 8-14, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Unforgiving Flesh

The Lord begins work so well it cannot but continue in those He has saved. Christians do good works. We love as we have been loved. We forgive as we have been forgiven. This is not a handoff or a tag team. This is God's work being done so powerfully in our persons that it conforms the protests of our flesh to His will. Christians are made holy in the death of Jesus. Holy people do holy works. Holy people love the Law because it is a good gift from the Giver. Holy people look to the Holy One to bring these works from beginning to completion.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:23-35 All Forgiveness Comes from the Cross

"Forgive as you have been forgiven." To forgive is to wipe clean the debt. We pray it. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." It's hard to pray this with sincerity because sin's effects in this life are profound. How does it feel when someone sins against you? How eager are you to forgive? The joy of the parable is seeing that God made forgiveness possible by first forgiving us. Jesus wants us to see that all forgiveness comes from the cross. The King's act of mercy gives the servant freedom, even freedom to stop counting the debts of others against him. *O LORD, Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:169-176 The Alpha and the Omega of Good

Everything starts and ends with God. Our cries reach Him because He first graciously came to us. From that comes salvation. He descends to deliver sinners. He teaches us His precepts, and we sing them back because He gave us faith to trust in them. Even when we sin and go astray, He seeks His servants to give us His torah again. Look to God's Word first and last. It is certain. Your works are stained by sin, but, according to His Word, your God seeks to save sinners through his Son's death, resurrection, and life-giving promise. *O LORD, descend to us and hear our cries and answer us in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:3-11 He Who Began it Will Bring It to Completion

He who begun the good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Love one another. Grow in knowledge and discernment. Approve what is excellent. Be pure and blameless. All these are the works of the Spirit, Who began them and Who will bring them to completion. The Lord Jesus Christ already said your redemption is finished. That promise will sustain our faith until the last day when the same Lord returns to judge the works He has begun and now brings to completion. *O LORD, Send us Your Holy Spirit and keep us in the holy catholic faith now and until the day of the Lord. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:9-11 Love the Word and Work of the Lord

To love God is to keep and treasure His Word, both Law and Gospel. We keep a Law we cannot perfectly keep and are sustained by a hope it has been fulfilled for us by Christ. God is faithful towards us. Do not be negligent with these commands, but have care, for they are given for your good. A hatred of God rejects His words and works. To hate the torah is also to hate the God who gives it as a gift. To hate your neighbor is to hate the One who died and rose to save sinners from destruction. *O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your statutes, that in faith we may love You and cherish what You call good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-20 Not A Checklist

Christians say "Matthew 18" to each other whenever as if it were a checklist to work through in order to get rid of someone. This chapter is about gaining your brother, not losing him. This chapter is about the Good Shepherd seeking the lost. It is about Jesus redeeming sinners and promising to dwell with us in a way that actually makes it possible for us to dwell with each other. The goal isn't to bind sins, but to loose them. That's why Jesus spent so much time preaching the Father's mercy to gentiles and tax collectors. *O LORD, as You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Good Shepherd, who gathers sinners, unite us in the same forgiveness of sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:30-32 Sealed to Good

To grieve the Holy Spirit is to deny forgiveness, through which you were sealed for salvation. You can stand unafraid on the last day because you are forgiven. Do not treat your neighbor as if Christ did not die for sinners. It is a sin against the faith planted in your heart by the Spirit. To believe Christ did not die for sinners is to deny that He died for you. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit Who, by forgiving your sins in baptism, sealed you for the day of redemption. *O LORD, keep us from grieving the Holy Spirit and hating Your mercy. Help us to rejoice in mercy not just toward ourselves, but toward each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:14-24 Wait in God's Hand

Be strong and let your heart take courage. Not because of your strength or status, but because of your God. He holds our times in His hand. To those that love Him, this is a promise. To those who hate Him, it is a curse. As we wait for the Lord, we do not measure the time, but count on the Lord. Yours is the God who has saved you in His steadfast love. Yours is the God who has already put to shame the wicked one even as Christ has burst from the tomb. Waiting is hard, but you are not cut off from His sight. *O LORD, You are patient where we are not. Keep us in steadfast hope while we wait for You, ever trusting in Your care. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org/support](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org/support)

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com](mailto:bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com). Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to [sanctus.org](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Pastor Harrison Goodman. He and his wife Lisa have 2 toddlers, and he is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Winside & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll ([www.stpaulinside.com](http://www.stpaulinside.com)).