

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 46:7, 2, 4-6, 10

The Lord of hosts is / with us;*
 the God of Jacob is our / refuge.
 Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth / be removed,*
 and though the mountains be carried into the midst / of the sea.
 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the ci- / ty of God,*
 the holy place of the tabernacle of the / Most High.
 God is in the midst of her, she shall / not be moved;*
 God shall help her, just at the / break of dawn.
 The nations raged, the king- / doms were moved;*
 He uttered His voice, the earth / melted.
 Be still, and know that / I am God;*
 I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Galatians 2:16

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656
 Martin Luther



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| <p>1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
 A trusty Shield and Weapon;
 He helps us free from every need
 That hath us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil Foe
 Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
 On Earth is not his equal.</p> <p>3. Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us.
 We tremble not, we fear no ill,
 They shall not overpower us.</p> | <p>This world's prince may still
 Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none,
 He's judged; the deed is done;
 One little word can fell him.</p> <p>4. The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
 He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
 And take they our life,
 Goods, fame, child and wife,
 Let these all be gone,
 They yet have nothing won;
 The Kingdom ours remaineth.</p> |
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“The Reformation of the Church of Christ”

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 October 28-November 3, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Reformation of the Church of Christ

There are two parts to repentance. First, the Law of God shows us our sin, where we've broken the commandments and failed to love God and our neighbor. The Law teaches us to sorrow over our sin. This is the first part of repentance. Second, the Gospel promises us the forgiveness of sins through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus. The Holy Spirit presses this promise into our ears and hearts, and gives us faith to believe this promise. This faith the Lord Jesus accounts to us as righteousness. God be praised for this truth brought to us in the Scriptures, and we pray that the Holy Spirit would preserve us in this truth.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15: A Kingdom of Peace, and Kingdom of Violence

Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). That is a tremendous comfort. God is not at war with us; He is not even mad at us. All His wrath has been spent on Jesus, and we are the friends of God. This peace and friendship set us at war with the world, the devil, and even our own sinful flesh. The church of God is a church militant. The kingdom of God suffers violence. While we are at war with sin and death, we are at rest with God, at peace. We rejoice in this peace, and from the confidence that it gives we stand against all the assaults of the devil. *Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring Your enemies into Your peace, and grant them to stand with us as well. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126: Brought Back from Captivity

In 586 BC the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar walloped Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and carried almost all of the people away to Babylon. In 531 BC the Persian King Cyrus issued the decree of return, permitting the exiles to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. Psalm 126 comes for the joy of that journey home; the joy of God's anger relented, and the city given back to them. The church has taken up this Psalm at the time of the Reformation, rejoicing that the Lord has brought us back to the joy and confidence of His pure Gospel, taught from God's Word. *O Lord, our mouths are filled with laughter and our tongue with singing. You have done great things for us. Keep us in the joy and freedom of the forgiveness of all our sins. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6-7: The Gospel is Judgment Preparation

There is a last day coming, a day when the Lord will stand on the earth and judge the living and the dead. That is a fearful day for sinners. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All, you, me, all have deserved God's wrath and punishment. How do sinners prepare for the Judgment Day? Cleaning up our act? Making excuses for our sins? Building the case of our own efforts? No. The angel flying through heaven tells us the only way. He preaches the Gospel, the death and resurrection of Jesus for sinners, the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the righteousness of Christ. This is our Judgment Day preparation. We are clothed in Christ. His blood covers our sin. In Him we are the righteousness of God, and ready to be declared eternally righteous. *Come Lord Jesus. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Reformation Day: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19: Cleaning the Lord's House

The Old Testament gives us the history of apostasy and reform in the Lord's Church, and this continues even into the New Testament. The devil is always working to plant the tares of false doctrine in the fields of the Lord's wheat. There is, therefore, a perpetual cleansing happening in the Lord's Church, a being wary of false doctrine, and a joyful teaching of the doctrine that is true from the Lord's Word. The 16th century was such a reformation, a recovery of the clear and comforting Gospel. But our joy is not in the cleaning, but in the Word that is found, the Gospel that is preached, and the comfort that Jesus has for sinners in every age. *Lord Jesus Christ, keep Your Church in the joy and comfort of Your Gospel truth. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17: For All the Saints

November 1 is All Saints' Day, a day to remember the Christians who have died and await the resurrection. To be a saint is nothing more (or less) than to be forgiven by Jesus. He makes us holy by His blood and Word. He makes us holy in our baptism. He wins holiness for us by His cross and sacrifice, which means that just as Jesus was raised from the death, we will be as well. "Tear down this temple, and I will build it up in three days." The temple is His body. The third day is His resurrection. And because He has done all these things for us, one day soon our own graves will be as empty as the grave of Jesus. *Oh Lord, raise us up on the Last Day to the joys of eternal salvation. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21: Works of Faith

Works and faith are always distinguished in the Bible. Works are how you "keep" a command. Faith is how you "keep" a promise. If you give the command, "Stand up," I keep that word by standing up. If you give me a promise, "I will visit you tomorrow," you keep that word by believing it. The Law gives us commands and works to do. The Gospel, on the other hand, is a promise, the promise of the forgiveness of sins won for us by the death of Jesus on the cross. We have the righteousness of the Gospel not by works, but by faith as we believe the promise that the Lord gives. *Lord Jesus, strengthen our faith and confidence in Your Gospel promise. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138: The Lord's Treasures

His mercy, His truth, His Name, and His Word, these are the Lord's treasures, the things that He values most. These are the things He has given to us. Oh if we could only see it! We treasure wealth, comfort, ease, whatever, the things that are passing away with the world. The true treasures, the true riches are those things which endure. "You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name." How richly the Lord has given to us the things that matter, the things of value, the things that endure past death to the resurrection and life eternal. *Lord, keep us in Your name and Your Word, so that we would rejoice in the eternal things that You treasure. Amen.*

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