

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 Psalm 126:6

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

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



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.

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.

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.

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 our remaineth.



Around the Word Devotions + October 29-November 4, 2017

Brought to you by Worldview Everlasting

“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.

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

The first rule about the Reformation is that you do not talk about the Reformation. We preach Christ crucified. Luther's story is great. Five hundred years is important, but the Reformation is not about Luther. It's about Jesus for us sinners. It's about justification, not by works, but by faith. It's about a return to what has always been the central teaching of the true church. We celebrate our history. We tell Luther's story. We remember the saints who fought for the confession we hold dear, but the thing that mattered so dearly to Luther, that he would risk his life for, is the same thing we hold to be the center of all we do and have. Jesus.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 Violence & Truth

It doesn't make sense that the kingdom of heaven should suffer violence. You'd think God would protect it. Instead, He sends John to be a martyred Elijah. It's not just the members of the kingdom who suffer violence. It's the kingdom itself. The borders are trespassed by the lies of the evil one, spoken as false doctrine from mouths claiming righteousness. They produce apathy and worse. So Christ suffered violence too. He is not over these things, but in them for you. Look to the cross to see the kingdom, where Christ suffered to bring you through suffering. *Lord God, send Your Holy Spirit that we believe Your holy Word and lead godly lives here in time & there in eternity. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – Jesus wept. For you.

He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing His sheaves with Him. This is not about you. This is not a divine karma that will somehow balance out the things that make you sad with a heaven that makes you happy. The Bible is about Jesus for you. Jesus sowed tears upon the cross, crying out to the Father who had forsaken Him in your stead. It is these crucified tears that turn to shouts of Joy as He rises to bring you, His sheaves, with Him to new life. *Lord Jesus Christ, by Your tears that gave way to joy, restore our fortunes lost in the fall. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6, 7 – Triune God, be Thou our stay

The ancient church confessed the Trinity in unity and unity in Trinity. The Reformation seeks the same confession: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These Three do not work apart from one another. The Holy Spirit bears the gospel on the mouths of the messengers sent to speak it. The Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity made flesh, is not only Word proclaimed to every tribe and nation, but the story itself as He was crucified and raised, facing judgment for your sins, that You may stand before the Father who made heaven and earth and worship Him. *O Father Almighty, send forth Your Spirit to proclaim the message of salvation in Your Son, that all nations and people may worship You, who lives and reigns with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed is Jesus

Blessed are those. Most of them don't describe us, honestly. Only one is directed at me. "Blessed are you when others revile you on My account. Do not be surprised at this." Yet rejoice, for Christ was made to be the rest for you. Poor in spirit, bearing your sins, mourning over death, meek, yet hungering for your righteousness, merciful, and pure in heart, making peace with the Father for you. Blessed are the saints, for Jesus has won our salvation by becoming what we could not fulfill. He is perfect, even as His Father in heaven is perfect. *Lord Jesus Christ, you fulfilled the Law in our stead that we may have Your reward. Help us to rejoice in You, for You have won for us the kingdom. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 - WWJD

What would Jesus do? Flip some tables, whip folks selling in His Father's temple. The idea that Jesus is always friendly is not in the Scriptures. God's righteous anger against sin is real. It is the same anger that was turned on the Son upon the cross. The temple must be pure because this is where gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation are delivered to you. Even now, we strive to keep the church free from that which would pollute, corrupt, or diminish the Gospel. *Lord help us ever to retain the Catechism's doctrine plain, as Luther taught the Word of truth in simple style to tender youth. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21 Sinning is Bad

Christ died to forgive your sins. It worked. That doesn't make those sins good. It makes them paid for in holy and precious blood. To insist Christ's death frees us to live in sin is to insist that Christ get behind our desire to hurt our neighbor, God's creation, and ourselves. We do not put away the Law. We die to it with Jesus and rise holy as He is risen. It works. You are holy now. You are what He has made you. Christ did not die for no purpose. He died for you. *Lord Jesus Christ, You have justified us, not by works, but by Your death and resurrection. Fix our eyes upon You, that walking in the paths You have directed us, we may be built up in love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138 – The Lord is near to you.

The Lord regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar. The Lord is near to you in the places that make you, a sinner, holy. As we bow down toward the temple of our God, there, our Lord is present to answer, and to grant strength of soul. He preserves our life by being with us through death. He delivers us not by pulling us up to heaven, but by descending to carry us, even as His steadfast love endures forever. *Lord God, dear Father Almighty, be near to us sinners in Word and Sacrament, and let Your steadfast love grant us strength of soul and peace unto life everlasting. Amen.*

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