



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13**

Be merciful to / me, O Lord,\*  
 for I cry to You / all day long.  
 For You, Lord, are good, and ready / to forgive,\*  
 and abundant in mercy to all those who call up- / on You.  
 Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;\*  
 for I am poor and / needy.  
 In the day of my trouble I will call up- / on You,\*  
 for You will / answer me.  
 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with / all my heart,\*  
 and I will glorify Your name for- / evermore.  
 For great is Your mer- / cy toward me,\*  
 and You have delivered my soul from the / depths of Hell.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 36:7**

“How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may be continually given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**The Will of God is Always Best**

TLH 517, LSB 758  
 Albrecht von Brandenburg



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| <p>1. The will of God is always best<br/>                 And shall be done forever;<br/>                 And they who trust in Him are blest,<br/>                 He will forsake them never.<br/>                 He helps indeed In time of need,<br/>                 He chastens with forbearing;<br/>                 They who depend On God, their Friend,<br/>                 Shall not be left despairing.</p> | <p>2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,<br/>                 My Hope and life abiding;<br/>                 And to His counsel wise and just,<br/>                 I yield in Him confiding.<br/>                 The very hairs, His Word declares,<br/>                 Upon my head He numbers.<br/>                 By night and day God is my Stay,<br/>                 He never sleeps nor slumbers.</p> |
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**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: Perseverance in Glorifying God**

The life of the Christian is simultaneously “now” and “not yet.” “Now” we have the victory through Christ Who has promised “it is finished,” but we don’t see it yet. We will fully see it on the last day. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh makes the “not yet” ring louder than the “now.” Faith rejoices that God comes to us now in Word and Sacrament to deliver the gifts that bring peace. The readings this week emphasize resurrection and God’s steadfast love. We receive these in His empty tomb and in His gifts delivered in His church, we find hope and life.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 The Thief of Death**

Jesus runs into a mourning mother and widow. Tears were her last possession. Jesus steals her tears. “Do not weep.” He doesn’t barter for them with trite sayings. “He’s in a better place now.” No. He covets her tears. He’ll wipe each one away. Still not content, He robs her son of his casket. “Young man, I say to you, arise.” Jesus’ death takes death away from us. In His suffering He takes our sin. Jesus robs us of every evil; our sin, our loss, our death, and even our grave. He stole your death too. You will live.

*Lord, take the best I have to offer You: my sin and my death, and grant to me Your life. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 According to Mercy**

“Lord, have mercy” is the constant prayer of sinners to the righteous God. In the Psalm David prays, “Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy” (Psalm 119:124). The Lord’s mercy is found in the death of Jesus, in the blood of His sacrifice. His mercy forgives our sins. His mercy calls us righteous and holy. His mercy gives us the joy of eternal life, and the confidence to face the Judgment Day. We, too, ask the Lord to deal with us according to His mercy, and rejoice that He does!

*Lord, keep us in Your mercy. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 Ugly Love**

The most potent acts of love are ugly. Like a woman preparing for widowhood wiping the sweat from her dying love’s forehead. Love. Nothing looks right here, but it is. It transcends knowledge, and it is beautiful. The Lord shows this kind of love to His enemies. To us. We comprehend it with all the sinners made saints. Delivered through a promise that bathes us in blood yet makes us pure in white robes. The terrible agony of the cross is full of the Lord’s love. *Lord, grant from Your Spirit the strength to look upon Your cross, and grant us strength from it. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 The Lord Kills and Makes Alive**

“The Lord kills, then makes alive.” That’s backwards, at least to us. We think that life comes first, then death, but not with the Lord. Wounding then healing. He kills, then makes alive. Law first, then the Gospel. Death, then resurrection. Life follows death. It did for Jesus, and it will for you. The Lord casts us down from our pride and raises us up in His mercy. *O Lord, heal us with Your mercy. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 Not Yet, but Still Now**

“Lord, if you had been here...” These are some of my favorite words of Scripture. I live in these words. I’m often afraid God has stepped back. So we whisper promises to each other about the “someday” He’ll return. I know that He will rise again in the resurrection on the Last Day. Jesus isn’t far, and He is the resurrection and the life. “Lazarus, come out.” The resurrection isn’t far. The work He has begun in you He will finish.

*O LORD, be present among us this day, that we would be kept with You until the last. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28 Then Comes the End**

We measure time selfishly. The world may not revolve around me, but time does. It only flies when you’re having fun. It makes the resurrection seem far away. But the last enemy has already been destroyed. God is all in all, and all time is in God. We measure time around ourselves, but God measures it around the cross. The resurrection has come. We may not see it yet, but we rejoice, and time lies alongside death under His feet.

*O LORD, fix our eyes upon the cross, that we would see the victory we have even while we suffer dark and latter days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36 Save Me from My Inner Monologues**

O LORD, save me from my inner monologues. Save me from the arguments I win in the shower and every “if only” that plots trouble. When my heart whispers to itself, “evil abounds,” so God works from the outside in. Steadfast love is poured through five senses to drown the Old Adam’s monologue in the fountain of life. Jesus speaks. He feeds. He shines light in the darkness. Take shelter under the shadow of an external God. He saves more than my heart ever could. Let my prayer be not a monologue. Let it rise before You as incense.

*O LORD, save me from my inner monologues by the preaching of Your external Word. Amen.*