

“The Sinners Whom Jesus Died For”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23**

Have respect to Your cov- / ant, O Lord;*
 oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!
 Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;*
 do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.
 O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?
 Remember Your congre- / gation,*
 which You have pur- / chased of old,
 The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—*
 this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.
 Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.*
 Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 9:12**

Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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
O God, Thou Faithful God

TLH 395, LSB 696
 Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,
 Thou Fountain ever flowing,
 Who good and perfect gifts
 In mercy art bestowing,
 Give me a healthy frame,
 And may I have within
 A conscience free from blame,
 A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do
 With ready heart and willing
 Whate'er Thou shalt command,
 My calling here fulfilling;
 To do it when I ought,
 With all my might, and bless
 The work I thus have wrought,
 For Thou must give success.

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 Sinners Whom Jesus Died For**

We often want to make things all about us, half about us, or at least the slightest bit about us. If we do this with salvation, then we've fallen into what theologians call synergism (working alongside God for our salvation). The ultimate desire of the sinful flesh is to justify ourselves, and so we take the Law of God and use it unlawfully. We take the mysteries of the parables and turn them into moral platitudes. We take the work of Jesus and make it secondary to the work of our own hands. It's a dangerous slope, and it is one that we all slide down multiple times a day. But Jesus does His Good Samaritan work of binding, healing, fulfilling, and forgiving. He never tires, no matter how many times we sin.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:23-37—The Good Samaritan**

I wish I could be the Good Samaritan, and I wish this parable was about me. But when taken in context, Jesus tells this parable to a lawyer desiring to justify himself. It can hardly be thought that Jesus would then tell him a parable so that he could justify himself. On his best day, this lawyer is the priest or the Levite who pass by the way. I quickly realize that I am not the Good Samaritan either. I also realize I am that dying man on the side of the road who needs someone to come and bind MY wounds and clean MY filth and carry ME to the end of my journey. It becomes so gloriously and wonderfully clear that Jesus is the Good Samaritan. *Dear Jesus, be my Good Samaritan. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:97-104 (MEM)—Jesus Again**

I'm not too sure I like reading this section of Psalm 119. The psalmist boasts of some pretty amazing things: He loves the Lord's Law and meditates on it day and night. He has more understanding of the things of God than anyone else. He holds back every evil, just so that he can keep God's Word and precepts. How condemning a Psalm this is! This doesn't describe me, not in the slightest. If I were to boast in such a way, I would be a hypocrite. We strive for this righteousness, but we never attain it. But just like our reading for yesterday, the true comfort in this text comes from the fact that the psalmist speaks about Jesus. Who else can speak these boastful claims without lying? It is Jesus, only Jesus! He has come to do what we were called to do, but never could accomplish. What joy! What an everlasting joy! *Father in heaven, count me righteous for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 3:15-22—The Offspring is Jesus**

Abraham was given the Promise long before the Law of Moses came about. The Promise was more than just "offspring", plural, but it was "offspring", singular. It was the promise of Jesus. Whatever Law there might be does not make the promise of Jesus and His salvation void. The Law is still good, of course, but in regard to salvation, it must be seen in its proper light. The Law was given because we were in sin and dead to it. The Law was given that we might know that we are dead in our sin and that the Law can never bring us salvation. We don't look to the Law for salvation or for the assurance of salvation. That would be misusing it. Instead, we look to Jesus, always to Jesus. He is the promise of Abraham and we receive Him in the same way he did: in faith, not through works. *God of salvation, may we correctly distinguish Law and Gospel. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Leviticus 18:1-5—Don't Do Like the Unbelievers**

Although Christ has come to fulfill the Law, He did not come to do away with it. This means that the Law of God, the good and holy Law of God, still stands before us. But, to be certain, it does not stand before us to justify us. It stands to first show us our grievous sinful flesh, to know that apart from Christ we would be exactly like the unbelievers, falling down before false gods. Since we have been brought to faith in Christ Jesus and our sins are forgiven free and clear and full, we have the beautiful light of the Law saying, "Of course you don't do like the unbelievers. You are a baptized child of God." It might be a little confusing, but it really comes down to this: The Law does not save. When this is known, only then can we begin to see the beauty of its rule for our lives. *Heavenly Father, my I believe in Christ for my salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:20-28—Being Great**

The ten are mad at the sons of Zebedee, not because James and John had dared to ask what they did, but because the rest of them hadn't had the courage to ask this for themselves first. Jesus sees through it, sees through all our false hubris. We want glory, but the glory of Jesus is the cross. If we really comprehended that, then we wouldn't ask to be seated with Him. We like our idea of glory better than God's. Jesus replies, "the first is last and the last is first." Once again, He is talking about Himself. He comes not to be served, but to serve. He is humbled to lift us up in the heavenly places through His work and His deeds and His righteousness. We will get what we ask for, but in a way that we had never dreamed. That's Jesus for you: His cross does all things well. *Jesus, may we receive the gifts of the kingdom for Your sake. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Timothy 1:5-17—The Law is Good if...**

The Law is only good if one uses it lawfully, or in the way that it is intended by God. The Law is not to be used to gain salvation. It is not to be used to measure my "goodness" against yours. The Law is not to speak to those who have no sin in order that they might be justified in their own works. If the Law is used this way then it is not good. It must be seen and heard in the light of sin. We recognize that the Law is laid before the sinner in all of us, not so that we might someday do better, but so that we might know for certain that we never will. The Law punches us in the belly like a tormentor, it never walks alongside us as a friend. In this way, it is good. For it is only in this way that I might know that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, of which I am the foremost. *Christ Jesus, save a poor miserable sinner like me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 9:9-13—Sinners and Tax Collectors**

It is not the healthy who need a doctor. It is not the righteous who need a Savior. In our pride we run the risk of considering ourselves too good for Jesus. We don't think we need saving. Better to know that we are the "chief of sinners." Matthew did. Here again is a chief of sinners found by Jesus in the midst of their sin, saying, "Follow Me," and Matthew does. What else could a convicted sinner do? Jesus goes and eats with more sinners and tax collectors, who couldn't produce a single good work for their salvation. But Jesus dines with them nonetheless, just like He does with you and me. Jesus eats with sinners. He is a Savior saving those needing to be saved, a physician for the sick, a life-bringer to the dead. This is the only sort of Jesus that you will ever get: one that dines with sinners, who dines with us. *Be merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Amen.*

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