

**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 **John 11:25-26**

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

**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



1. The will of God is always best  
And shall be done forever;  
And they who trust in Him are blest,  
He will forsake them never.  
He helps indeed In time of need,  
He chastens with forbearing;  
They who depend On God, their Friend,  
Shall not be left despairing.

2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,  
My Hope and life abiding;  
And to His counsel wise and just,  
I yield in Him confiding.  
The very hairs, His Word declares,  
Upon my head He numbers.  
By night and day God is my Stay,  
He never sleeps nor slumbers.



**"Perseverance in Glorifying God"**

**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 September 16-22, 2018

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Perseverance in Glorifying God

Jesus is the resurrection and the life, the hope for all doomed to die. Jesus is the righteousness and holiness of God, the hope of all sinners. Jesus is the kindness of God, the Friend of sinners, the good Physician, the one who kills to make alive, the One who was killed on the cross to make us alive. This week's devotions are full of beautiful passages that bring us Christ our Savior and Friend, and the joy of knowing that He is alive for us.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17, When Jesus Says "Arise", You Arise

This is a stunning scene: two crowds, meeting at the city gate. One is a funeral procession, led by a mourning mother. The other is the crowd of Jesus' disciples, led by Jesus Himself. They meet at the gate. It would be customary, and good manners, for Jesus and His disciples to step aside and let the funeral procession through; but Jesus stands His ground. He stops the march of death; that is what He has come to do. He says to the mourning woman, "That's enough crying," and He reaches out and touches the coffin, and the boy wakes up from the sleep of death. How wonderful! A little taste of the last day when Jesus will wake all His people, and give to us eternal life. *Lord Jesus, come soon, wake the dead, bring the resurrection to eternal life. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, sixteenth part (AYIN v121-128), "O Love Your Commandments More than Gold"

It matters what we love, what we delight in. Our sinful flesh is inclined to delight in all sorts of things, perhaps most especially in wealth. But David teaches us what we ought to delight in. He sets our affections straight. "Therefore, I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, that fine gold!" God's Word, His will, His law, His commandments, His promises, these are our greatest treasure. When we have these we have life eternal, and wisdom to live here below. Fine gold can buy food and clothing, but only God's Word carries us through death to eternal life. *O Lord, sanctify my desires and delights, so that I treasure above all things Your words and commandments. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21, That You Would Know the Unknowable Love

This text gives us insight into how Paul prayed for the church, and what a prayer! There is too much to talk about in a paragraph, so I'd like simply to point to the mystery that Paul refers to in 3:19, that you would "know the love of Christ which passes knowledge." Did you catch that? Paul prays that they would know what can't be known: the love of Christ. His love for us is so profound that we cannot comprehend it. We cannot sound its depths or see its heights. Only by the Holy Spirit enlightening our eyes can we begin to know that love. *O Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our inner man so that we would be able to know the love of Christ that passes knowledge, and that we would be filled with the fullness of God. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40, God Kills and Makes Alive

"I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive." It seems like the order is wrong. We live first, then we die. Cradle then grave. But the Lord does things in the other direction. First we die, then we live. This is the proper order of Law and Gospel. The Lord slays us with the Law, showing our sins and the wrath that we deserve. Then He lifts us up out of the grave with the promise of the Gospel. Faith and the forgiveness of sins is a resurrection. Baptism is a resurrection, a new, second and eternal life. The Lord kills first, and then gives life, because the life He gives will never come to an end. *Heavenly Father, grant me Your Holy Spirit, so that I look to You, the only true God, for life and salvation. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45, The Tears of God

"Jesus wept." This is the shortest verse in the Bible (John 11:35), but it speaks of great things. First, of the love of Jesus for Lazarus. "See how He loved him" (11:36). This love of Jesus not only brings Lazarus out of the grave. This love will put Jesus into the grave for us! And these tears of Jesus, the tears of God, teach us that it is not a sin to mourn or to cry. Jesus, who did all things well, mourned the death of Lazarus. We do well when we mourn the death of those we love, even as we know that Jesus has them in His care. Jesus was a Man of Sorrows, and He teaches how to mix our tears with hope and our sadness with faith. *Lord Jesus Christ, give us strength to do the good work of mourning, and bring us at last to the resurrection where there will be no more tears. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13: St. Matthew's Day, The Doctor is Looking for the Sick

Tax collectors were the worst. They would cheat the people, steal from them, and take all they wanted. They were the worst of sinners, and this tax collector: Matthew, knew it. He knew his sin, his guilt, his shame, his damnable wretchedness. So when Jesus says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician," Matthew knows just what He is talking about. Matthew needs a Savior, and he has one. "Follow Me!" Jesus says to Matthew, "you don't belong to sin anymore, you belong to Me." We, too, belong to Jesus, the doctor who finds the sick, the Savior who has found us sinners. *O Lord, thank You for Your mercy and kindness to Matthew, to me, and to all sinners. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36: How Precious is Your Lovingkindness, O God!

"Precious" is a delightful word, a delight in something tender, a joy in something wonderful and good. King David teaches us to pray, "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God" (Psalm 36:7). God's lovingkindness is His mercy and goodness and love all bound up in one. It is the love that drives Jesus to the cross, the love that wins and delivers forgiveness of sins to us sinners. His lovingkindness saves us, delivers us, and gives us life. It is precious above all precious things. "Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings." *O Lord, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Amen.*

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