

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:137, 124, 1-2, 5-6

Righteous are / You, O Lord,*
and upright are Your / judgments.
Deal with Your servant according to Your / mercy,*
and teach me Your / statutes.
Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
who walk in the law / of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep His testi- / monies,*
who seek Him with the / whole heart!
Oh, that my ways were / directed*
to keep Your / statutes!
Then I would not / be ashamed,*
when I look into all Your com- / mandments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Peter 5:6
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that at the proper time He may exalt you.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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
In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

TLH 319
Johannes Schneising



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| <p>1. In Thee alone, O Christ, my Lord,
My hope on earth remaineth;
I know Thou wilt Thine aid afford,
Naught else my soul sustaineth.
No strength of man, no earthly stay
Can help me in the evil day;
Thou, only Thou, canst aid supply.
To Thee I cry;
On Thee I bid my heart rely.</p> | <p>3. O Lord, in mercy stay my heart
On faith's most sure foundation
And to my inmost soul impart
Thy perfect consolation.
Fill all my life with love to Thee,
Toward all men grant me charity;
And at the last, when comes my end,
Thy succor send.
From Satan's wiles my soul defend.</p> |
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“Humble Love of Brothers in Faith”

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 23-29, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: Humble Love of Brothers in Faith

The Lord humbles and raises up. He loves reversals. He holds the proud in derision, laughing at them; He gives grace to the humble and poor in spirit. His mighty act of salvation is itself a reversal: He humbles Himself to death on a cross, the Righteous for the unrighteous, to raise us up as heirs of His eternal Kingdom. Ours is not a religion of submission and subjection; it is a religion of grace. Humility is necessary not as a virtue, but in place of our own self-righteousness. God does not delight in us for our own sake; He delights in us for Christ's sake, through Whom we are raised out of the pit of death.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:1-11—Humility for the Sake of Christ

It is hard to escape the fact that humility does not come naturally to us—to our fallen flesh. We are afraid to give Jesus' advice a try at our next party, for fear that the host may not notice us and we would remain in the lowest place. Then again, is Jesus trying to secure worldly honor for us, or His Father's exalting hand? This Lord pulls oxen and sons out of wells on the Sabbath. He also exalts those who are humbled in repentance, freeing them from their sins by His blood. Seek not your own honor, but the honor Christ bestows on sinners by grace. *Lord, You call me "friend," increase my humility. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:129-136 (PE)—Humility before God's Word

Humility before God should not be understood as mere subjection. We keep His testimonies because they are wonderful, not because they seek to domineer us. It is iniquity that always attempts to gain dominion over us. Thus, we pant for God's Word as those simple who recognize they need to gain understanding. We are oppressed without and within. We see with tears what happens when pride rules and God's Law is ignored. But in humility we see rightly what God's way is: to return to us and be gracious. *Lord, I love Your Name and Your Word. Make Your face shine upon me and teach me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6—Unity with Humility

The true unity of the Church is the unity which the Holy Spirit gives, sanctifying us by the Word of truth. It is to be kept and treasured in the bond of peace. A lack of peace ought not to wreck the unity of the Church—it can't; but pride gets in the way, blinding us so that it appears ruined. That is why Paul, when speaking about the unity which we cannot create, urges us to humility and patience. Let the whole Church stand in awe of what God does: He unites perfectly by His call to never-ending hope. One Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God, one Church, in one Spirit. *Lord, unite Your Church on earth. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 2:1-10—Not by the Might of Man

Hannah's song is a song of reversals. The Lord is not a respecter of persons as we are. He is holy, with none like Him. Comparisons are not worthwhile to Him. But He is glad to exalt the humble and to humble the exalted. He both kills and makes alive. And, what is joyful for all His saints, He often does both works in a row. It is His pleasure to judge in this way, that He brings to nothing every arrogance in us that He might exalt us only in that which is truly firm and lasting: His own knowledge and salvation. Not by the might of man, but by His Anointed, His Christ. *Lord, Hallowed be Your Name. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:18-28—Lord of the Sabbath

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He showed this by healing the man of dropsy on Sunday; He also shows it today with His disciples. The Sabbath rest is always in Him, which is to say; He is the One who must be at work in us. Thus, He is to be healing, feeding, teaching, and providing especially on the Sabbath. Jesus is also the Bridegroom. He is not constrained by the Laws of the Old Testament (much less those traditions of men that surround them); rather, the Law comes to its fulfillment in Him. He is the Sabbath's Lord. Like the Sabbath, He is for us. *Lord, let me rest in You, that You may work in me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Jude 20-25—Built up in Mercy

The value of humility is not to hold even this over our neighbors. The Church is so-called because it is a body and a group, even a household. We are built up in our faith together, kept in the love of God as we await with hope the day when no more building will be necessary. Jude mentions one very selfless act in particular: "save others by snatching them out of the fire." There is no room for Christians to compete for anything, as if we could grab the seat of honor. It is God our Savior who keeps us from stumbling and presents us blameless. *Lord, build me up in mercy toward my fellow saints. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-11—Your Holy Angels

There are many false ideas about angels. But the idea of a "guardian angel" comes from this passage here: "For in heaven their angels..." We like the idea that angels watch us; but we rarely consider how fearsome angels are, at least by the Bible's description. They are God's warriors. They must constantly tell everyone they meet not to be afraid. But they are given over to honor-guard duty for our sake. And yet, they gaze not at us, but at their Commander, the Father. Let nothing shake our gaze from His Son. *Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

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