

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 86:1-3, 4, 6, 15-16**

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
You are my God; save Your servant who / trusts in You!
Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
for I cry to You / all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your / servant,*
for to You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.
Give ear, O Lord, / to my prayer;*
and attend to the voice of my suppli- / cations.
You, O Lord, are a God full of com- / passion,*
oh, turn to me, and have mercy up- / on me!
Give Your strength to Your / servant,*
and save the son of Your / maidservant.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church, and because she cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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 God, My Faithful God

TLH 526, LSB 745
Sigismund Weingartner



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| <p>1. In God, my faithful God, I trust when dark my road; Tho' many woes o'ertake me, Yet He will not forsake me. His love it is doth send them And, when 'tis best, will end them.</p> | <p>3. If death my portion be, Then death is gain to me And Christ my Life forever, From whom death cannot sever. Come when it may, He'll shield me, To Him I wholly yield me.</p> | <p>2. My sins assail me sore, But I despair no more. I build on Christ, who loves me; From this Rock nothing moves me. To Him I all surrender, To Him, my soul's Defender.</p> |
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“The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit”

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 9-15, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit

Idolatry turns calling God's gifts "good" into calling good gifts "god." We look to stuff, and then we cry out when it can't save us. We seek that which bears no promise, ignoring that which delivers God's mercy. The Word of the Lord fixes our eyes upon Jesus, that we may see all good things not just as gifts from God, but in their proper place, that they would work together for His good will. Christian life is rooted in God's word and promises, that daily we would die to sin and rise to newness of life, and daily we would be shown the goodness of the Lord.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:24-34 – Your Brain Won't Empty of Worry, So Fill it With Christ.**

Jesus says, "Do not be anxious." But I think, "The lilies are thrown into the fire, no matter how pretty they look. Here one day and gone the next." I know worrying won't fix it, but there's no off switch for my anxiety. The answer isn't false optimism, but the character of God. Fix your eyes on Jesus. What kind of God is He? We can't empty ourselves of worry, so we are filled with the promises of Christ. Seek first the kingdom of God. That is where sinners find hope and righteousness. *Lord God, fix our eyes upon Your mercies, new each day, that we would cease to measure the things of this world and instead measure Your promises to us. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:113-120 (SAMEKH) Let Me Be Baptized.**

I hate the double-minded. I am double-minded. Hide me from my love of all things evil. Shield me from my enemies, but especially from Old Adam. Uphold me with Your promise, that my hope would not be in myself, but in You alone. You will put to death the wicked, but You have promised resurrection to those who love Your testimonies. Lord, let me be baptized, that each day Old Adam would drown and die and a new man would rise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever. Amen.
Lord God, we are at war with ourselves, and we often find we love that which is evil in Your sight. Help us to love what you call good and find shelter in Your mercies. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 5:25-6:10 Christianity is Not a 0-Sum Game.**

Christianity is not a 0-sum game. When you look bad it doesn't make me look better. Keeping what you ought to share doesn't make you richer. It just deprives you. We act as if God doesn't love us, that He only rewards those who look the best, that He only gives so much daily bread. Scarcity turns us on each other. But what if God loved us? What if He provided daily bread everyday? What if His forgiveness was not just for us, but for our neighbor, that we would be lifted up by Him together? That's Christianity. Jesus for sinners, the generosity of God for us.
Lord Jesus, fix our eyes on Your mercies, for us and for all, that we would see our neighbors as worthy of love even as You have loved us all. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Deuteronomy 6:4-7 I Learned it From Watching You**

Parents, it's not your pastor's job to teach your kids to love Jesus. They learn that from you. If you talk more about sports than you do about the catechism, don't be shocked when the Catechism gets left behind. If you don't care, revisit Deuteronomy 6:4. "You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart." All of us fail. We all struggle with devotions at home. We're sinners. This is what makes the catechism beautiful. It's our hope, because it teaches of a God who is merciful to sinners. God sustains us, so we cling to Him.
Lord, fix our eyes upon Your mercies, new each day, that we may teach our children to love You as You have loved us. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:38-42 One Thing's Needed.**

Christianity is not about what you can do for Jesus, but what Jesus does for you. Being the church is not skipping worship to rake leaves. It's being near Jesus to receive from Him in Word and Sacrament. I realize there's a lot to do. It's easy to become distracted with much serving, but one thing is necessary. Faith in Jesus goes to Jesus. He has promised to be found in Word and Sacrament, not as yet one more thing to worry about, but as the remedy to worry and anxiety. It's even enough to care for our neighbors after. *Lord, show to us what is necessary, that we may seek You where You have promised to be found and receive from You in joy. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 8:26-39 What Hinders Baptism?**

What hinders baptism? In this case, it was the lack of a preacher. The eunuch had the Bible, so why would he need a preacher? Or for that matter, why read the word if you listen to the sermon? We love to take things God gives us and set them against each other. Usually to get out of something. Preaching and the Scriptures go hand in hand. Baptism isn't opposed to these things, but now saves you, delivering the promises made in the word. God gives multiple gifts, and they work together for good. Don't pick one, receive all.
Lord God, as You give a variety of gifts, use each of them collectively towards Your one will, to save us. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 34 God's Goodness is Measured from the Whole Creed.**

Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. But I have a long list of things I lack. We so often try to measure the goodness of God in the 1st Article of the Creed. Do I have enough stuff? Nope. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, after all. Yet our hope is not in stuff. Hope in God. The Lord delivers us. He redeems the life of His servants. Look past the 1st Article of the Creed and into the 2nd and 3rd. See the goodness of the Lord. We lack nothing when we have Christ and He has us.
Lord God, heavenly Father, be near to us in our affliction, and fix our eyes upon Your mercy, given in the person of Your Son. Amen.

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