



“The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit”

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 **Philippians 3:3**

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

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> | |

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 20-26, 2020

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

The year 2020 has destroyed man's confidence in many things, a stark reminder amidst pandemic, social upheaval, and political controversy that confidence in the flesh leads to despair and destruction. But we, who leave all to follow Him (Matthew 9:9-13), will also have the gifts of this earth (Matthew 6:24-34), the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:25-6:10), and love for God and our neighbor (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). Christ is our one thing needful (Luke 10:38-42), Who is always with us in preaching and Baptism (Acts 8:26-39). We, who take refuge in Christ Jesus and who trust not in the flesh, will never be confounded (Psalm 34), for our confidence is in Him alone.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24-34 Contentment in Christ

Jesus instructs us to not be anxious about our daily needs. The word "anxious" in the original language of the New Testament is the same word for tombstone. Worry, which is idolatry, erects a tombstone in the human heart. Repent! But our confidence, wrought by the Spirit and anchored in the crucified and risen Christ, is in God alone. He created, redeemed, and sanctified us. Our heavenly Father cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. How much more will He give us, the crown of His creation, to wear the baptismal robe of His righteousness and to eat and drink of His body and blood? *Heavenly Father, thank You for daily and richly providing all that we need to support this body and life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13 Come, Follow Me

See how St. Matthew, having once been an IRS man of his day, was converted by the power of the Word to be one who gives, rather than takes. The thief (as tax collectors often were) became an Apostle, dispensing freely the mercy of God to all who believe. And as Jesus ate with the sinner Matthew and taught Him to desire mercy rather than sacrifice, so did St. Matthew, through his Gospel, hand down the Apostolic tradition of hearing the good news about Jesus and eating His Holy Supper. We, though terminally ill with sin, are blessed with the same blessings from the Great Physician: life, salvation, and resurrection from the dead. *Lord Jesus, grant us to live in daily repentance that we may continue to rejoice in Your righteousness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:25-6:10 Not of the Flesh, but of the Spirit

Here St. Paul contrasts the sinful flesh against the work of the Holy Spirit. The flesh pursues its own sinful desires and will never be satisfied, for we poor sinners will always lust after more power, money, pleasure, and other idols. This vanity will not be ended by satisfying it, but rather by crucifying it through repentance (the circumcision of the heart). The Spirit, by contrast, gives us genuine confidence in Christ and His atoning work. In Him alone are the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.), manifest in bearing one another's burdens. It's just what God's children do. *Lord Jesus, it is better to trust in You than to put confidence in men. Grant that our confidence may always be in You, that we may walk in daily repentance and faith. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 One God and Father of All

In the parable of Nathan the Wise, a Medieval lord leaves three rings of sonship – one real, two replicas -- to each of his three sons, but takes to his grave the identity of his one true heir. This is how rational man views the three religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) that believe there is but one God. How do we know that the Shema ("Hear, [O Israel]") text in Deuteronomy is uniquely Christian Scripture? Islam is fatherless. Modern Judaism is sonless. Christianity, by contrast, has the Father and the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He did all for us and for our salvation, that we might love Him with our heart, soul, and mind. *Lord God, You are the only true God. Grant that we and our children may hold fast to You in the quiet confidence of faith. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42 One Thing Needful

Here are three icons of daily life in Christ. Martha teaches us that we should not be so distracted by "all created things" (TLH 366.2) that we lose track of the one thing needful. Mary is an icon of penitent faith, "As intent each word [of Jesus] she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined" (TLH 366.3). But let us not stop at trying to "be like Mary," for the heart of this story is Christ, the icon of the Father: "Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, lies concealed in Thee" (TLH 366.5). "Thy death on the cross hath Death wholly defeated / And thereby my righteousness fully completed" (TLH 366.6). *Heavenly Father, forgive us for putting our false gods ahead of Your Word. Grant that we may count all but loss for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-39 The Washing of Regeneration

Behold, the model of New Testament ministry to the unbaptized, and how different it is from modern evangelical crusades! Here is law, gospel, and baptism. The law of God shows us how we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and must repent or die. The gospel proclaims the good news that Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah 53 and all that was written "Deep in the prophet's sacred page [and] Grand in the poets' winged word" (TLH 132.2). And such preaching leads immediately to baptism, a washing of regeneration (literally "genesis again") for all nations. *Lord of the Harvest, thank You for bringing us to the font. Grant that the preached Word of the cross may bring many more to baptism, to die to sin and to live in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 Every Day Will I Bless Thee

Martin Luther describes Psalm 34 as "the history of David as an example for all the righteous so we might learn from him that God never despises the cries of His saints." As Christ's own prayer through the mouth of His saints, this Psalm teaches us to fear God and to be on our guard against all manner of temptation, even as we take up our cross and suffer for the gospel. Here we also learn to bless the Lord at all times and to let His praise continually be in our mouths, for He has redeemed us by His blood and He will continue to deliver us from every affliction. *Merciful Lord, You bow down Your ear to us, even as we incline our hearts toward You. Continue to cleanse and defend Your Church, that we who take refuge in You may never be confounded. Amen.*

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