PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5

Vindicate me, O God,* and plead my cause against an ungodly nation; oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!* for You are the God of my strength. (Psalm 43:1–2) Oh, send out Your light and Your truth!* Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy. Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. 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 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.
The Lord promises us that in His Word we have everything we need for faith and a holy life. So we cling to His Word. We cling to it, given to us in our baptism, with His Name placed upon us. We cling to it as it delivers to us Jesus’ blood. We cling to it as it gives us promises which are always fulfilled. We cling to it as we confess it before men. We cling to it as it guarantees our salvation in the Means of Grace. And we cling to it even when assaulted by evil and death. So in the end we can confess in the face of it all: “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!”

The Christian has three chief enemies: sin, death, and the devil. They assault us from every angle and bring us all sorts of trouble throughout our days. It is easy to despair of them and give in. But they are defeated. Our Lord has delivered us from those enemies and from all their trouble through the death of Christ, which is the fullness of His might. That victory and salvation is given to us as His name is placed on us in Holy Baptism. Because of that victory, that salvation, and that vindication, we may look upon these enemies: our sin, our forthcoming death, and even the devil, and we may laugh, for in Christ, we triumph. Heavenly Father, thank You for giving me the victory over my foes through Your Son’s death and resurrection. Amen.

The great multitude of things which fight against the Lord’s Christians. But the Lord promises to protect us from them, to hide us in His shelter, to conceal us, to lift us upon a rock. Therefore, we are preserved from all calamity. Nothing they can do can separate us from God in Christ. In the end, though we die, we will be raised on the last day. And so we are left with this final confession in the midst of all adversity: “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!” Such is our faith, and hope, and comfort. Heavenly Father, I praise You because You will never let me, Your righteous one, fall to my enemies. Amen.

The devil likes to convince us that things are vital, when they are actually not very important. And those things which are truly vital, he points us away from them. Chief of these is the vital nature of what we say about Jesus. The devil would have us say as little as possible, and should the world point us in another direction, we should confess a Jesus that conforms to the world. But that is to deny Jesus. Confessing Jesus is hard, especially in the face of the devil and the world, which hate him. But we have this great promise, that Jesus is always with us in our true confession of Him, so we need not fear what the devil and world might say about that. Jesus, bless me with a constant and bold confession of You before the world. Amen.

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were a constant reminder of the sins of the people. Week after week and year after year blood was spilt to forgive the sins of the people. But it was never done. Christ, however, brings His own blood to the altar of the cross, the culmination of all the previous sacrifices, to make a final sacrifice for the sins of all people of all time. That blood purchased us, it redeemed us, from the clutches of the devil who desires our eternal damnation. Because of that blood, we have an eternal redemption, eternal salvation, and an eternal inheritance as God’s beloved children. Lord Jesus Christ, I give You thanks for Your blood, poured out for me, giving me the assurance of everlasting life with You. Amen.

Evolvidoers, and armies, and war, oh my! And the list could go on and on. We have a great multitude of things which fight against the Lord’s Christians. But the Lord promises to protect us from them, to hide us in His shelter, to conceal us, to lift us upon a rock. Therefore, we are preserved from all calamity. Nothing they can do can separate us from God in Christ. In the end, though we die, we will be raised on the last day. And so we are left with this final confession in the midst of all adversity: “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!” Such is our faith, and hope, and comfort. Heavenly Father, I praise You because You will never let me, Your righteous one, fall to my enemies. Amen.

Pent, and thank You for blessing me through Him. Amen.