

5 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 al- | tar of God,*
to God my ex- | ceeding joy.
Why are you cast down, | O my soul?*
And why are you disquieted with- | in me?
Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,*
the help of my countenance | and my God.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 8:58**
“Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.””

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Christ, The Life of All the Living**
TLH 151, LSB 420
Ernst Christoph Homburg



1. Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe, Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe,— Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit: Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.	6. Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently, Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me; Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
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“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

In Christ, God defies all reason and becomes a man. Therefore, Christ can say, "Before Abraham was, I AM." When the great I AM joined Himself to the flesh of mankind in Christ Jesus, He accomplished an impossible and incomprehensible task. And though it appears as folly to the world, it is in fact the greatest and most profound wisdom of God. So we call out to Him, on the basis of His name, for help and aid in every struggle and fear. It does not mean the fears of this life will cease; it does mean that He suffers with us as He Himself suffered in our flesh on the cross.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 — Before Abraham Was, I Am

Jesus confesses His divinity. Even if modern scholars can't figure it out, the Jews understand what He meant. He claims to be both God and man. If such a claim proved to be true, then the Jews must accept Jesus' claims and teaching. They must confess that He is God, and that He alone can atone for the sins of the world. So also it stands before us this day as well. Jesus stands before us not simply as God and not only as man—but the God-man. He stands before us the only mediator between God and man, the only One through whom salvation comes. He lived and died as God and man for all mankind. *Father, we give You thanks for Christ's suffering and death on our behalf. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 — Save Me by Your Name

All throughout the Old Testament, God points forward to the salvation of mankind. One of the greatest pointers is His own name. David pleads for salvation on the basis of God's name. The angel did not give to Joseph the name "Jesus" on a whim. That name Jesus, which God would one day take, indicated the very purpose and intent of Jesus' life: to save His people from their sins. Other names do the same: Immanuel: God with us, Prince of Peace: who brings peace with God, and so forth. We continue to cry out to Him on the basis of His own name, the name He has given them to use in prayer. *Father, send Your Holy Spirit so that we might offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 — Saved by the Flesh . . . of God

God did not give the Old Testament sacrificial system as a set of random rules for the people. The entire system served the greater purpose of God—to point to the final sacrifice. The blood of bulls and goats could not remove sins, but the blood of God can. Therefore, God permanently joined His eternal nature to the temporal nature of man, uniting the two natures in one person: Jesus. The new mediator—not a beast, but God Himself—offered His own blood to purify man. God finished what He began in the Old Testament. *Father, send Your Holy Spirit so that by His Grace, we might receive the eternal benefits of Christ's mediation—forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 — A Blessing to All Nations

In Abraham, God created a nation through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed. Many great nations have risen and fallen, leaving their mark on the history of the world. But in Abraham, God offered a promise and an unparalleled blessing: all nations would be blessed. In Abraham's Seed waited the God-man. Jesus' own body carries in it the DNA of Abraham. God made Abraham a blessing to many nations in order to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Abraham's name became great not because of the Hebrews or Jewish nation, but because of the one who came to dwell with and save mankind—Jesus. *Father, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, by whom we have received adoption as heirs of eternal life with Your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 — Not Peace but a Sword

Christ came to earth not to bring earthly peace. He comes to wage a spiritual war and bring eternal peace. This spiritual war will result in earthly conflict. The truths of God that Satan, the world, and our sinful flesh cannot accept will result in division, discord, and strife. No Christian should ever be surprised to see the world arrayed against him in full battle armor, striving in every way to destroy him. No Christian should ever be surprised when family members turn against him. For your enemies will be those of your own household, Christ declares. *Father in heaven, send Your Holy Spirit so that by His mercy, we might be preserved from strife and strengthened to weather the turbulent times when they come. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:21-31 — Man's Wisdom and God's Folly

That God can become a man seems to be pure folly; it defies human reason. God cannot suffer, and yet, in the flesh of Jesus Christ, God suffered and died. That the same flesh of God might be joined to bread and the blood of God to wine cannot be grasped by the human mind; and yet, God chooses to bestow His gifts in this way. That God redeemed the world not in might or power has confounded the wisest of the wise throughout history. But in weakness God's wisdom is seen. The salvation of man cannot depend on men, but upon the God-Man, Jesus. In Him, all the wisdom of man is confounded. In Him the praise and glory of God's work for men is seen. *Father, send Your Holy Spirit that, forsaking earthly wisdom, we might receive heavenly wisdom. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 – Afraid of What?

Whom shall I fear? My employer can fire me and take away my income. Whom shall I fear? The government who might turn against me, removing my freedoms and leaving me in prison and without hope. Whom shall I fear? No one. The Lord is the stronghold of my life, and in His house I will dwell forevermore. The struggles of life do not cease; Satan will use whatever avenues he may to remove even one happy moment from the life of God's children. But in the end, the adversary has already fallen, and our earthly sufferings form us into the image of Christ, the crucified One. *Father, send Your Holy Spirit so that by His grace, we might not collapse because of our fleshly fears, but stand firm in the eternal hope of Christ our Savior. Amen.*