

“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”



**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 **Psalm 27:11**

“Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.”

**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.  
 Evermore and evermore.

**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

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!"

SUN

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

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 The Prayer of the Betrayed

The context for this Psalm is 1 Samuel 23:15-29. Saul unjustly sought David's life because he was driven mad with envy. Such are fruits of demonic attack. But as if one enemy wasn't enough, the Ziphites betrayed David's location. Men are weak. Their promises mean little to nothing. Therefore, David didn't cast himself on the mercy of men in the hour of his betrayal but on the constancy of God. Why? The Lord is faithful. David trusts in the Lord Who keeps His promises, even when it looks like everything has turned against him. Just as David's hope was vindicated, so will your hope in Christ. The devil's power over you is ending. Sin's time is running out. Though all you have is the Word, it is enough. *O God, vindicate me by Your might. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9: 11-15 Eternity-Securing Blood

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.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 A Promise in the Loins

When God promises that "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," He is pointing Abram and us to the blessed promise of His Son, our coming Savior, Jesus. The promise of Jesus lies in the loins of Abraham. There, generations down the line, is Jesus, the promised Messiah, the promised seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent. From that seed, hundreds of years down the line, all the families of the earth receive the great blessing of forgiveness of sins, life everlasting, and eternal salvation. In Abram, even we are blessed this day and every day, because in Abram lies Jesus. *Lord God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to the world as the seed to crush the serpent, and thank You for blessing me through Him. 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: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 Boast in the Lord

This lesson gives understanding. Why did the Jews reject Jesus? They wanted signs. But their eyes were never satisfied. When the sign of Jonah was given them, it still wasn't enough. They stumbled. Why did the Greeks reject Jesus? They sought wisdom. But the ultimate revelation of God's glory being displayed through a dying man on a cross was folly to them. Their minds couldn't grasp the simplicity and majesty of God in suffering. Where the eyes and mind fail, the heart succeeds, not because it has a power in itself to catch God, but because it is the organ of faith, filled to the brim by the calling of the Holy Spirit. The cross may be low and despised, dear Christian, but to you it is the power and wisdom of God. *I boast in You, O Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 One Thing

The cross means pain. The cross means anguish. The cross means death. It does not mean defeat. For you it means redemption, reconciliation with the Father, forgiveness, and eternal life. The cross means Jesus, your Savior and Lord. The devil has arranged himself against you as he arranged himself against Christ in the hour of His passion. Don't be surprised. Are you not a member of Christ's holy body? Though the devil sinks his teeth into you, you lose nothing. With Christ you gain everything. The devil's head is crushed. Your body dies only to be raised. Your tears are shed only to be wiped away. The world fades and the glory of the Lord's House shines with resurrection light. *Grant me to gaze upon Your beauty and inquire in Your temple. Amen.*

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