

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23**

Have respect to Your cov- / nant, O Lord;*
oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!
Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;*
do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.
O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?
Remember Your congre- / gation,*
which You have pur- / chased of old,
The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—*
this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.
Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.*
Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 9:12**

Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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
O God, Thou Faithful God

TLH 395, LSB 696
Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,
Thou Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts
In mercy art bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whate'er Thou shalt command,
My calling here fulfilling;
To do it when I ought,
With all my might, and bless
The work I thus have wrought,
For Thou must give success.



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: **Believing Love of All Others**

We often want to make it all about us, or at least a little bit about us. Theologians call this synergism: working alongside God for our salvation. The ultimate desire of sinful flesh is contributing something or anything at all to our place in heaven. In so doing, we take the Law of God and use it unlawfully. We take the mysteries of the parables and turn them into moral platitudes. We take the work of Jesus and make it secondary to the work of our own hands. It is a dangerous slope, and it is one that tempts and endangers us all. But then Jesus comes as our Good Samaritan, binding and healing and fulfilling and forgiving us. He never tires of caring for us, no matter how many times we fail.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:23-37—The Good Samaritan**

I wish I could be the Good Samaritan, and I wish this parable was about me. But when taken in context, Jesus only tells this parable because a lawyer was desiring to justify himself. It can hardly be thought that Jesus would then tell him a parable so that he could justify himself. On his best day, this lawyer is the priest or the Levite who pass by the way, caught in a “Damned if you, damned if you don’t” situation. And when that is known then the lawyer, and I, quickly realize that I am not the Good Samaritan. Then, before I know it, I realize how quickly I am that dying man in the middle of the road who needs someone to come and bind MY wounds and clean MY filth and carry ME to the end of my journey. And then, finally, it becomes so gloriously and wonderfully clear: Jesus is the Good Samaritan. *Dear Jesus, be my Good Samaritan. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:97-104 (MEM)—Jesus Again**

I love reading this section of Psalm 119. The psalmist boasts of some pretty amazing things: He loves the Lord’s Law and meditates on it day and night. He has a thorough understanding of God’s heart and mind. He holds back every evil, just so that he can keep God’s Word and precepts. How wonderful a Psalm this is! Because Christ has kept the law for me and redeemed me from my sin, I now love the Lord’s law. How can it hurt me? It can only be my delight. Hypocrites boast in the law, but without the righteousness that comes by faith and the Holy Spirit’s grace. They continue to stand under its curse. God be praised that Jesus’ saving work allows us to speak these words with boldness and confidence. Jesus has come to do what we were called to do, but never could accomplish. What joy! What everlasting joy! *Father in heaven, count me righteous for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 3:15-22—The Offspring is Jesus**

Abraham was given the Promise long before the Law of Moses came about. The Promise was more than just “offspring” plural, but it was “offspring” singular. It was the promise of Jesus. Whatever Law there might be, does not make the promise of Jesus and His salvation void. The Law is still good, of course, but in regard to salvation, it must be seen in its proper light. The Law was given because we were in sin and dead to it. The Law was given that we might know that we are dead in our sin and that the Law can never bring us salvation. We don’t look to the Law for salvation or for the assurance of salvation. That would be misusing it. Instead, we look to Jesus, always to Jesus. For He is the promise of Abraham and we receive Him in the same way Abraham did: in faith, not through works. *God of salvation, may we correctly distinguish Law and Gospel. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Leviticus 18:1-5—Don’t Do Like The Unbelievers**

Although Christ has come to fulfill the Law, He did not come to do away with it. This means that the Law of God, the good and holy Law of God, still stands before us. But, to be certain, it does not stand before us to justify us. It stands to first show us our grievous sinful flesh. Apart from Christ, we would be exactly like the unbelievers, falling down before false gods. But now since we have been brought to faith in Christ Jesus and our sins are forgiven free and clear and full, we have the beautiful light of the Law saying, “Of course you don’t do like the unbelievers. You are a baptized child of God.” It really comes down to this: the Law does nothing for salvation. And when this is known, then can we only begin to see the beauty of its rule for our lives. *Heavenly Father, may I believe in Christ alone for my salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:20-28—Being Great**

The ten are mad at the sons of Zebedee; not because James and John had dared to ask what they did, but because the rest of them hadn’t had the courage to ask this for themselves first. But Jesus sees through it, sees through all our hubris. We want glory, but the glory of Jesus is the cross. If we really understood that, then we wouldn’t ask to be seated with him on that cross. We want our idea of glory not God’s. So Jesus says that, “First is last and last is first.” He is talking about Himself. He will be our servant. He will be like a slave to us, propping us up in the heavenly places through His work and His deeds and His righteousness. We will actually get what we ask for, but in a way that we had never dreamed. That’s Jesus for you: His cross does all things well. *Jesus, may we receive the gifts of the kingdom for Your sake. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Timothy 1:5-17—The Law is Good if...**

The Law is only good if one uses it lawfully, or in the way that it is intended by God. The Law is not to be used to gain salvation. It is not to be used to measure my “goodness” against yours. The Law is not to speak to those who have no sin in order that they might be justified in their own works. If the Law is used this way then it is not good. But if it is seen and heard in the light of sinners, if we recognize that the Law is laid before the sinner in all of us, then we know for certain that we cannot become perfect in this life. The Law punches us in the belly like a tormentor. This is good. It is only in this way that I learn my great need so when I hear that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, of which I am the foremost, I am comforted with salvation and eternal life. *Christ Jesus, save a poor miserable sinner like me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 84—No Better Place**

O Lord of Hosts, there is no better place than within Your presence. You have caused my soul to yearn for You and my heart to sing for joy. Creation itself finds safety in You. How much more those who dwell within Your house, within Your Church? You give strength to us all. Even as we wallow through a dry valley of despair, You make the rains to come and lead us to springs in the desert. Hear my prayer, O God of Jacob! Be my shield as You have always promised to be. Look upon my face and see the face of Your Son, so that I might receive Your blessing. For I would rather spend a fleeting moment with You than an eternity elsewhere. I would rather be Your servant than a master without You. Bring to me life and protection. Bestow, for Christ’s sake, favor and honor. My trust is in You and You alone. Grant me all that I need to live, temporally and eternally. Amen.