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

Have respect to Your cove- / 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 **Psalm 119:103**

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

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.

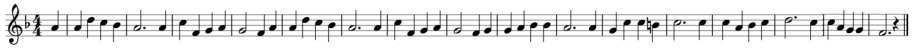
9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

TLH 395, LSB 696

O God, Thou Faithful God

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.

Around the Word Devotions + August 30-September 5, 2026

"Believing Love of All Others"

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 August 30-September 5, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

We must not be deceived. God still works in his creation through His Preached Word. He speaks a word that kills. He speaks a word that makes alive. That is how He has always worked. Throughout this week of devotion we will hear God speak to His people. He will tell His people clearly the way things are. And, we will see how those people received God's preached word. It is our hope that we might respond the way St. David responded in Psalm 119.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:23-37: Faith and Love

The scandal of the parable is that one "outside" the Law, a Samaritan, is holier than those "inside" the Law, priest and Levite. The law will not make us righteous. Indeed, St. Paul is vindicated when he says, "the law INCREASES the trespass." Romans 7:9. The Priest and the Levite are the visible expression of St. Paul's, that is the Holy Spirit's, preaching. It is only faith in the Promise of God, which does not discriminate along ethnic lines, that saves. This saving faith ignites love for God and neighbor. The Law kills. Its ministry is death. Therefore, none are saved by it as the parable makes clear. The Samaritan is saved, and the neighbor helped by faith and love. *Lord, lead me by Your Word to increased Faith and Love. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM)

The Law of God is the most salutary doctrine in all life. But it cannot help humans obtain saving righteousness. After faith, though, as St David is expressing, the Law of God is profitable for making us wise and instructing us in what is good, right and true. First, we must have Faith. Then we can come to love and delight in the law of God for its benefits to our daily lives. This is why St. Daivd loves the Word of God. First it gives the promise of salvation by Faith. Then, because the Lord is superabundantly good in His gifts, He pours out wisdom, integrity, discernment, and understanding upon our heart and minds. *Lord, help me to first seek Your kingdom and then enjoy all that is added to me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22: The Law & Promises

The Law of God adds nothing to our salvation, but it is still a good thing. This is truly an amazing section of Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Law is like a good babysitter. But, when the child grows and is matured, the babysitter is no longer needed. So it is with Christ and His Church. Christ is the promised offspring of Abraham. Now the Law no longer applies to those in Christ, as the Holy Spirit instructs. This, of course, makes many nervous. What of the Law!? It is sent away like a babysitter. Put to rest because we who are baptized have put on Christ and are clothed with Him, not the Law. *O Lord, by grace You have saved me and clothed me in Christ. Keep me by Your Spirit in Him. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5: The Law Shows God's Care

In a conversation with a gay man I was asked, "Why all the rules? Why does God care about what I do with my body?" I said, "Would you want a boring religion and a boring god that cares so little?" The fact that God has rules for creation and His kingdom reveal His tender fatherly heart. He wants His creation, and His children, well taken care of. As Moses and St. Paul teach, these rules, while good, do not create faith. They only make things worse for us. They do this by driving to near despair before God lifts us up with the precious promises of the Gospel. *Lord, first grant me faith by Your Preached Word, then help me trust Your good gifts for all my life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28: Christ Came to Lay Down His Life

Self-promotion and self-care have become a niche market for American pop-psychological consumers. While the individual person has a place in the economy of God's salvation, here Christ points His disciples away from hierarchical personal ambition. The suffering and death of Christ as an act of service toward his neighbors is the pinnacle. The disciples learn they will, likewise, not be spared from this "cup." The Lord does not save us from suffering and death, but through suffering and death. His own. And we, as His disciples, will also share in that suffering and death. For the Lord kills and makes alive and our futures and hopes are with Him and no other. *O Lord, when the night of suffering and death come for me, draw me up. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17: Death to Life

St. Paul reveals that he was dead and heading to hell. But God in His generosity and mercy saved St. Paul. We, too, are partakers of God's uncanny grace. Perhaps our conversions were less poetic, or dramatic, than St Paul's. But this matters little. Only Christ matters. Here is the power and beauty of God in Christ Jesus, that He takes sinners of young and old, drama or bore, and makes them His own and gives them a new destiny. I need nothing of a grand testimony in the heavenly realm for Christ has given me His testimony and life. *O God, keep me from believing my salvation is less grand than others, for it rests upon You alone. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84: Increasing Wisdom among Immense Folly

There is little better than receiving the good gifts of God in the Church and serving the house of the Lord. Our world and culture are awash with meaninglessness and void of virtue. Yet, faith increases the desire for what is good. I have little aspiration for my life, and the life of my family, other than we might enjoy cleaning the toilets at our church and taking out the trash that smells of old diapers. We need Christ and His Word of Life. We do not need the places of Glory. We only need to be under the table with crumbs, or at the door, or with a mop bucket and trash bag. That place, like all the places, is the best place in the kingdom. *Lord, help me to love Your kingdom made manifest on Earth in my congregation. Amen.*

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