



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10**

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
 in the midst of Your / temple.
 According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth;*
 Your right hand is full of / righteousness.
 Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
 in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
 God is in her / palaces;*
 He is known as her / refuge.
 Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,*
 because of Your / judgments.
 For this is God, our God forever and / ever;*
 He will be our guide even / unto death.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 126:3**
 “The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold** TLH 260, LSB 745
 Martin Luther



1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
 And let Thy pity waken:
 How few are we within Thy Fold,
 Thy saints by men forsaken!
 True faith seems quenched on every hand,
 Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
 Dark times have us o'ertaken.

3. May God root out all heresy
 And of false teachers rid us
 Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
 That shall our speech forbid us?
 By right or might we shall prevail;
 What we determine cannot fail;
 We own no lord and master."

5. As silver tried by fire is pure
 From all adulteration,
 So through God's Word shall men endure
 Each trial and temptation.
 Its light beams brighter through the cross,
 And, purified from human dross,
 It shines through every nation.

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 7-13, 2022

THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God

All around us is a world that is caught up in a lie. The father of all lies, the devil, works tirelessly to bring more ears to hear it and hearts to believe it. We were conceived and born into the lie too; by nature we believed it. But by God's grace and work of the Holy Spirit, we have been brought from the darkness into the light, from the deadly lie into God's truth, in which is life. In that truth we have a solid foundation that cannot be shaken. As we watch a world descend into chaos, we cry out, "Lord, have mercy! Protect and defend us from the devil, from the world, and from ourselves!"

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23 – Wolves in Sheep's Clothing are Still Wolves!

Jesus warns us about things that aren't what they seem. Wolves in sheep's pulpits may be pleasing to your ears, but their words are deadly thorns and thistles. They can be outwardly tempting because of the fruit that they produce. But Jesus says that not everyone who calls out, "Lord, Lord!" is saved. "Beware!" Jesus warns. Sound preaching, however, produces the good fruit of daily repentance and faith in Jesus as well as love for others. Sound preaching yields a harvest of righteousness to the glory of God the Father. *"Let Your Words in me take root, that I bear abundant fruit." Amen. (LSB 589:4)*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH) – Create In Me a Clean Heart, O Lord

Have you kept the words of these eight verses? I haven't; none of us has. The new man or woman that God has created you to be in Holy Baptism delights in God's Word, but your sinful nature is always dragging you back into the darkness of unbelief. But do not despair...God is stronger than the sin that is at work in you! He has given Jesus to be your forgiveness and His Spirit to be your helper. *O God, the earth IS full of Your steadfast love; grant that I may keep Your Word with a pure heart. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 – We Rejoice to Call God "Father"

Adam and Eve sinned by believing the devil instead of the Father. They believed the lie from the father of lies instead of the Father's Truth. Ever since, we have been walking in darkness. God the Father, in love for us, sent His Son to undo the devil's works, and bring us out of darkness into His light. We now call God "Father," rejoicing to be called "children" and "fellow heirs of Christ." *Gracious Father, we thank You that You have adopted us out of the kingdom of death and brought us into Your kingdom of light and life! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 – In the Palm of Jesus' Hand

"I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked." God has made His people quite a promise, hasn't He? Because of our sin, we should be left to the hand of the wicked and the grasp of the ruthless. Yet the Lord God is gracious. He gave His Son, Jesus, to stand in our place. He gave His back to the whip, His head to the crown of thorns and His hands and feet to the nails. He gave all this to save you and give you into the Father's hand forever. *Keep us, Lord, in the palm of Your hand! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 – Jesus: The Firm Foundation

Everything crumbles and dies. We are reminded of it daily. In the world, in our own country, and even in our own lives. Things that we thought would stand forever come to an end. The Word of the Lord, though, endures forever. In that Word God sets our feet upon the firm foundation of His Son who cannot be overcome. He overcame death and the grave; all who are built upon Him will endure forever with Him. *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; on Christ, the solid rock, I stand! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 – The Shepherd's Life-Giving Words

A wolf doesn't approach the flock baring its teeth and snarling; he wants to be as un-wolf-like as possible. But before long, it's too late and disaster strikes. Paul warns that false preachers, like wolves, will come in and destroy the flock with their twisted words. Their words sound good but are destructive. Their words point you to yourself and your own desires but away from Christ crucified for you. A wolf's words destroy, but the Shepherd's words give life! *Gracious Father, save us from false preaching and guard us with Your life-giving sound doctrine! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – Singing the Song of Salvation

As we make our way to the house of God tomorrow, consider how it is a foreshadowing of our being gathered to God's eternal presence in the new creation. From the ends of the earth all the people of God will be gathering to the Lord, streaming in to be in His presence forever. Jesus has redeemed us from captivity. The song of salvation and rejoicing is on our lips. "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad! Bring back our captivity, O Lord!" *Open now Thy gates of beauty; Zion let me enter there. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor Hopfensperger**. He and Kirsten are blessed with four children: Andrew (and wife Christal), Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah. He serves Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky, Michigan. (www.peacelutheransandusky.com)