

“He Suffered Temptation by Satan”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 91:15-16, 1-2, 9-10, 13**

He shall call upon Me, and I will | answer him;\*  
 I will deliver him and | honor him.  
 With long life I will sat- | isfy him,\*  
 and show him My sal- | vation.”  
 He who dwells in the secret place of the | Most High\*  
 shall abide under the shadow of the Al- | mighty.  
 I will say | of the Lord,\*  
 “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him | I will trust.”  
 Because you have made the Lord, who is my | refuge,\*  
 even the Most High, your | dwelling place,  
 No evil shall be- | fall you,\*  
 nor shall any plague come near your | dwelling.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 32:11**

“Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; 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  
**God the Father, Be Our Stay**

TLH 247, LSB 505  
 Martin Luther



(verse 1) God the Father, be our Stay,  
 (v2) Jesus Christ, be Thou our Stay,  
 (v3) Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,  
 Oh, let us perish never.  
 Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,  
 And grant us life forever.  
 Keep us from the Evil One;  
 Uphold our faith most holy,

Grant us to trust Thee solely  
 With humble hearts and lowly.  
 Let us put God's armor on:  
 With all true Christians running  
 Our heavenly race and shunning  
 The devil's wiles and cunning.  
 Amen, Amen, this be done,  
 So sing we, Hallelujah!

**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 Temptation by Satan

Satan brings temptation to man. It has been this way since the 8th day of creation and will be this way until the Lord comes again in His glory. He tempts us to be what we are not. He tempts us to despise our humanness. He tempts us to go against God's good and holy Word for our lives. He tempts us to despair of God's gracious mercy, and His everlasting love and forgiveness. Satan tempts in order to destroy us. And so our Lord takes on our flesh in order to resist what we could not. Tempted like us in every way except without sin, Jesus resists the temptations of the evil one in order for Him to reach the cross blemish free. So that He can be the sacrifice that wins salvation over this evil foe of ours and the One who forgives us when we fall into temptation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11—Tempted

"Why are you hungry?" Satan asks Jesus. "Just make some bread with your divine powers and stop your belly from rumbling. Or more to the point, why do you even have a belly? Why are you standing in flesh and bone? Why have you subjected Yourself to becoming man?" It's a valid question. Why would God become man? We know the answer to that one, to save us from our sins. But notice something in that first temptation, it is eerily similar to the first temptation in the Garden of Eden. Not the temptation to eat, but the temptation to be like God and only like God, to despise humanity. Adam and Eve failed miserably. We do too, as we are always reaching for the stars, not content being what God made us to be. But Jesus did not count equality with God something to be grasped. He succeeded where we fail. *Jesus, thank You for taking on the form of a servant. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32—Blessed Are The Forgiven

*Lord, forgive my transgression and cover my sin. Count no iniquity upon my ledger, for Your sake, not mine. For my sin had long been heavy upon me threatening to steal all strength from my hand. Allow my confession to be full and true, that I might not try to hide any sin, for You see all things. May You be my hiding place from all my adversaries. May you promise Your deliverance from all of my enemies. Therefore, let my prayer come before You each and every day. Instruct my comings in and my goings out. Teach me the path of righteousness and the way in which my foot should step. Forever keep Your eye upon me, for I am stubborn like a mule without knowledge or understanding. May Your just counsel surround me with steadfast love and let my trust in You never fail, that I may be glad in You and shout for joy all the days of my life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10—A Favorable Time

When is a favorable time? When is the day of salvation? Such questions are silly, at least in the mind of St. Paul. For the Lord had set him on the task to proclaim the Good News of a crucified Savior. And because of that, God had seen it good to bring Paul through persecution and hardships and calamity in order to preach the glories of the cross to a people lost in darkness. So when is that favorable time and day of salvation? Right here and right now. Christ crucified, for you! Today, He is for you. Not tomorrow, but today. Alright, He will be there for you tomorrow as well, but tomorrow will take care of itself. Do not receive the grace of God in vain. Do not despise preaching and His word. Do not neglect to be where He has promised to give Himself to you. Receive Christ today for your salvation. *Lord, thank You for Your day of salvation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-24—Mankind Falls

"Satan despises humanity. He despises anything of the temporal, anything that you can touch and taste and see and hear. He is a Gnostic, in that way, believing that the temporal is the antithesis of good, and so his temptation is to have Adam and Eve deny their humanity and be like God. For Man to have a knowledge of death they must die. And so to succumb to this temptation means that man will be doomed to destruction. Yet our Lord would not see the pinnacle of His creation be damned. And so the first promise is given, the first Gospel: the Seed of the woman will crush Satan. What poetic justice! God will use the very thing most despised by Satan in order to defeat him. He will take on our flesh and crush the devil's head with a crucified flesh and bloody heel. *O Christ, thank You for crushing the head of Satan for our sake. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-34—Peter's Promise

Peter promises that he will never deny Jesus, but will follow Him all the way to death's door. It's a valiant promise, one that each catechumen and each new member vows: never to fall away from the faith. But I don't think that Peter gets the point of what Jesus had previously said. You see, while Jesus is talking about the greatest one being the servant, He is talking about Himself serving humanity through His death. And yet Peter, wanting to be seen as great, boastfully promises to stand alongside Jesus to the cross. That is a common thing for the sinner, wanting to number himself with Jesus. Better to let Jesus number Himself with us. Meaning, better to let Jesus do all of the work of saving and forgiving and granting life. If there is anything given to us to do in regard to salvation, it is only to receive it. Let us be content in that! *Servant of all, continue to serve me all the days of my life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 1:2-15—Count It All Joy

There is a difference between joy and happiness. Our English makes them synonyms, but I would argue that they are separate concepts. It is the way in which the Christian can be joyful at the funeral of his wife without being happy. The joy is in Christ and His victory over the grave. Tears may stain the cheek, and death may take away all happiness, but not even the grave can steal away the Christian's joy. And so in the same way, when the Christian is enduring the various trials of this world because he is a Christian, he counts it a joy. In the midst of persecution, the Christian joyfully bears his cross. In the midst of trial, the Christian knows that God's power is made perfect in weakness, therefore when we are weak, God is strong to save. And save He does! *Almighty God, grant to us the pure joy that comes from Your Son, even as we endure the trials of this life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13—St. Matthew

Matthew was a tax collector, which means he was a sinner. I know, I know, we are all sinners, but in Jesus' time a tax collector exemplified the sinner among sinners. He was a cheat and thief, while also being a traitor by working for the Romans. Matthew was hated by all, and yet he was called by Jesus to be an apostle and evangelist, not because of anything inherent in him, but because of the mercy of Christ. Matthew reminds us that Jesus only dines with sinners. If you are not a sinner, you don't have a place at His table. That is not to say that He approves of sin. It means that a person does not have to make himself worthy before Jesus shares a meal with Him and speaks a work of forgiveness in his ears. For if we had to first make ourselves worthy of Christ's presence, the things we receive would not be gifts given by Him. *Great Physician, I am sick and in need of You. Heal me according to Your mercy. Amen.*

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