PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 97:6, 9, 1, 10-12

The heavens declare His righteousness,*
and all the peoples see His glory.
For You, Lord, are most high above all the earth:* You are exalted far above all gods
The Lord reigns: let the earth rejoice:* let the multitude of isles be glad!
He preserves the souls of His saints:
He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.
Light is sown for the righteous,* and gladness for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,*
And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.
Lord Jesus Christ, grant that by Your word, our sins would be forgiven, that we may have the same restoration, community, and life. It is Christ who sets His cross upon the LORD's holy hill, fulfilling the promise of the same mercy given to you, a sinner that Jesus died for. The Scriptures show acts of mercy for sinners as promises of the same mercy given to you, a sinner that Jesus died for.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 19:27-30 Christ restores His creation in love.

Jesus isn’t encouraging you to turn your back on your families who don’t believe, or to imagine your salvation is dependent upon giving up property. He’s talking about the real life damages caused by sin and unbelief. It divides families and homes. Jesus promises salvation for those hurt by sin. The first shall be last. The last, first. Christ, who is first, will give up everything to save you, that even if you have nothing left, He will restore what was damaged by sin completely. He bears the sin in your place, and promises you salvation. Lord Jesus Christ, grant at last Your healing touch to those homes damaged by sin. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 17:5-10 I can’t move the stupid tree.

I can’t move the stupid tree. If I can’t even do that, how can I believe my way up to heaven? Christ’s promise to save isn’t based on our worthiness, but His love. We are unworthy servants. He saves us anyway. I will not believe my way into heaven, but Christ died and was raised for me and won for me the kingdom. Faith clings to His promise to save the unworthy. God gave you your faith. It’s enough, because your Father in heaven doesn’t give you bad gifts. Lord Jesus Christ, save Your unworthy servant, and send Your Holy Spirit, that trusting in You, we may find peace in You as our justification. Amen.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11:1-16 Faith is not a checklist, but a hope that God saves sinners.

We didn’t choose our religion by going through a checklist. I wasn’t baptized because I wanted a faith that rejected evolution, homosexuality, and had a story about a giant boat. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith victims of murder are made alive. By faith drunks and adulterers are called saints. By faith sinners, all sinners, are forgiven and justified. The promise of our salvation greets us from afar, but our God sends His Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep. Faith is hope that Christ’s death and resurrection unite us to our heavenly home, even from afar. Lord Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit, that we would ever be kept in faith, and finally see You face to face. Amen.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 33 God tends to get His way.

God tends to get His way. He wanted it to be light and it was. He spoke and it happened. When He speaks you to be righteous, He gets His way. When He promises you salvation, it is good. Although we don’t see it yet, we hear God’s promise and hope. He is our help and our shield. Whatever things look like, we know His victory. He has spoken it. It is finished. Our sins are forgiven. We are baptized and absolved. We eat His body and drink His blood. He speaks it and it is good. Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You. Amen.