

“The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49

The Lord was / my support.*
 In the day of my ca- / lamity
 He brought me out into a / broad place;*
 He delivered me because He delight- / ed in me.
 I will love You, O / Lord, my strength.*
 The Lord is my rock and my / fortress.
 For You will save the humble / people,*
 but will bring down / haughty looks.
 As for God, His way is / perfect;*
 the word of the Lord is / proven;
 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the / Gentiles,*
 and sing praises / to Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Hebrews 3:1

“Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Oh, How Great is Your Compassion

TLH 384, LSB 559
 Johann Olearius



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| <p>1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
 Faithful Father, God of grace,
 That with all our fallen race
 And in our deep degradation
 Thou wast merciful that we
 Might be saved eternally!</p> | <p>3. And for this our soul's salvation
 Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
 In Thy Sacraments and Word.
 He imparts true consolation,
 Granteth us the gift of faith
 That we fear nor hell nor death.</p> |
| <p>2. Thy great love for this hath striven
 That we may from sin be free
 And forever live with Thee;
 Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
 And extends an earnest call
 To His Supper unto all.</p> | <p>4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,-
 Truth doth evermore abide,-
 Then in Thee I will confide.
 Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
 My salvation is to me
 Well assured eternally.</p> |

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: The Spirit's Call to Fellowship with God

The tables are set. The lamps are lit. The sumptuous courses of the finest cuisine stand ready in the hands of the servants to be set before the honored guests. The doors to the banquet hall are thrown open and the heralds of this great feast go into the city "to say to those who have been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'" This feast is none other than our Lord's heavenly banquet of eternal blessing, purchased and won for you through the merits of Christ alone. You have been invited by the Spirit into this fellowship with God. Though others ignore the Spirit's call, by faith you have received the invitation with joy. Thanks be to God!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:16-24 "A Heavenly Feast"

Jesus invited His own people to the heavenly feast of victory. Their Lord was keeping His promises to deliver them from their ancient enemies. The excuses on their lips are too often found on our own. "I just bought a new truck." "I need to check out the new vacation property up in the mountains." "I'm too busy with my family." How easy it is to set the things of this world over the things of God! Heed the Lord's warning. Don't let the cares of this world snatch the heavenly joy of being invited to God's banquet out of your heart. It doesn't matter if you think you don't belong. He's prepared a place for you by grace alone. Jesus Himself has given the price for your admission through the cross. *Thank You, O Lord, for my baptismal invitation. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16 "A Pure Way"

The young men are attacked in our culture with corrupting vice. There are powerful forces on the other side of their screens trying to entice them into carnal thoughts and justifications for all manner of sin. "How can a young man keep his way pure?" Now more than ever we need to hear, "By guarding it according to Your Word." The Word of the Lord contends and wins against the corrupting influences of the world. But how can they have this great guardian of purity and righteousness if they don't hear or believe? Bring the kids to church. Don't make it optional. Study the Scriptures with them. The Lord Himself will teach the young men to seek Him and find Him by faith. *O Lord, teach the children to delight in Your statutes. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:13-18 "Not Surprised"

"You hate me? But I was trying to be nice!" Reductionism is a common error. It boils down Christianity to a singular word or concept. To many it's "nice," the state of being that's mildly helpful and never offensive. When Christianity offends, they're surprised. To keep being nice, they'll modify whatever they believe and confess. Far better is the full bodied "love" enjoined upon us from St. John. Christ has taught it by laying down His life to save us. So also, we lay down our lives as sacrifice for our neighbor. We don't become accomplices to our neighbor's suicidal unbelief. Even if it costs us the world's hatred, we call to repentance and preach Christ alone. *Grant me boldness, O Lord, to love my neighbor as You have loved me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25:6-9 "For All Peoples"

The pall that covers the peoples is death. Apart from Christ the gentiles contrive their own ways of dealing with it, everything from philosophy to uploading their consciousness into the cloud. Yet, the pall remains until death is swallowed up. "Death is swallowed up in victory!" Whose victory? Christ's. He has atoned for the world's sin. He has reconciled us to God. He has conquered death through His resurrection. He freely gives His victory to all who receive the good news with faith. The peoples who sat in darkness are now bathed in the light of the Gospel, the light of the knowledge of Christ. There is no greater feast than this holy communion with God by faith. *Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35 "Godly Hatred"

What competes in your heart for the fear, love, and trust that ought to be in God alone? Folks will readily admit the crasser idols they're struggling with, things that have to do with money or pleasure. Far harder it is to admit that one's family can supplant Christ. For the sake of offending fathers, mothers, sisters, and aunts, I've seen too many people keep themselves from the divine service and the true confession of Christ. Because family can be a powerful idol, Jesus uses the strong word "hate." Going to church can cost you. Count the cost and realize that it may come with being rejected by family. And yet, with Christ is the treasures of heaven and reconciliation with God. It's worth it. Every time. *Grant me true faith that never waivers, O Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:14-22 "Gold and Garments"

Having it good isn't all it's cracked up to be. Comfortable Christianity isn't the goal. To think that we need nothing, that the stuff we surround ourselves with in our materialistic, consumeristic life is what it takes to be happy, is the revolting tepid water that Jesus spits out. Though surrounded by things and worldly riches, Jesus calls us "wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." Instead of resisting suffering, maybe we should be ready to embrace it. "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent." Amen. For our riches, let us repent and turn to Christ Who gives the gold of grace and the garments of righteousness through baptism. *Grant me to receive my crosses with faith and joy, O Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80 "Prophecy"

For the sin of doubt, Zechariah was silenced. Sin always carries consequences in this life, even when its guilt has been forgiven before God in heaven. Then again, what greater build up to a heavenly crescendo of revelation could be imagined than what happened through Zechariah. His prophetic song, called the Benedictus in our liturgies, shines a clear light on exactly what God is doing through both John the Baptist and Christ. God has kept His promises. David's son and Lord is here. He will save us from our enemies. John will prepare His way by preaching the knowledge of salvation "in the forgiveness of sins." God be praised for this wonderfully clear prophesy of our God's saving work! *Blessed be You, Lord God of Israel! Amen.*

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