



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 13:5-6, 1-4**

O Lord, I have trusted in Your / mercy;*
 my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- / vation.
 I will sing / to the Lord,*
 because He has dealt bountiful- / ly with me. (Psalm 13:5–6)
 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for- / ever?*

How long will You hide Your / face from me?
 How long shall I take counsel / in my soul,*
 how long will my enemy be exalted / over me?
 Consider and hear me, O / Lord my God;*

enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the / sleep of death;
 lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed a- / gainst him”;*
 lest those who trouble me rejoice when / I am moved.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 16:31**

(Jesus) said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, the Strength of all those who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us the help of Your grace that in keeping Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide

TLH 292, LSB 585
 Nikolaus Selnecker



1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
 For round us falls the eventide;
 Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
 For us be ever veiled in night.

2. In these last days of sore distress
 Grant us, dear Lord, true
 steadfastness
 That pure we keep, till life is spent,
 Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
 The guile and rage of Satan stay!
 Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
 Give concord, patience, courage, peace.

9. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
 We here may live and die, dear Lord;
 And when our journey endeth here,
 Receive us into glory there.

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 Words in Holy Scripture

Our meditations this week present to us these two great truths: First, that the Holy Scripture is God's definitive and final Word to us Christians, that we would believe in Jesus and receive life in His name. Second, that because this Word of God is the greatest of riches that we could ever hope for in this life, earthly riches and other gifts from God should be kept in their proper place - as our daily bread and instruments for the care of our neighbor and the Lord's congregation - and not let earthly goods deceive us into false security or allow them to become our gods.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31—Seeing Isn't Believing

We walk by faith, not by sight. There is a temptation to think that if we could only see Jesus, if we could see His miracles and signs and wonders then we (and all those around us) would believe. But that's not where faith is born. Faith is born not in our eyes but in our ears. "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." If we will not believe through our ears, hearing the Word of God, then we will not believe through any miracles either. But the Lord, in His mercy, has poured out His Word into our ears, striking also our hearts, minds, and even eyes, so that we see by faith. *Lord, keep me steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, first part (ALEPH vs. 1-8)

The Psalmist says "Blessed are those whose way is blameless." But how can this be for us? We know that our sins taint everything, that even our righteous deeds are as filthy rags. How can we, who bear the corruption of sin, be blameless in our ways? Not by our own works, but by the declaration of the Lord. The Lord declares us, who are His beloved bride, to be holy and blameless, without any spot or blemish. And so He bids us to stand in those promises, to walk in those ways. Blessed are those who walk in His ways. The Lord gives us His Word so that we would know our sin, but also so that we would know our Savior, and walk in the way He has laid out for us: the way of blamelessness. *Lord, thank You for making me blameless in Christ. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21—Love Your Brother

Love begins with God, for He Himself is Love. He extends that love to us through His Son, whom He gave as a propitiation for our sins. We love God because He first loved us. But that is not all. John says that if you love God, you will love your brother. That is a tall order. Some of our brothers are pretty unlovable, at least to our sinful eyes. In this we always return to the love of God, namely, how we who were utterly despicable and unlovable in our sins nevertheless received the mercy of God. He loved us "unlovable". Now look at your neighbor. He starts to look a bit better. God loves him too. He is your brother, an object of your mercy, and a cause for joy. *Lord Jesus, show me Your love and help me to love my brother as You have loved me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24—What we should boast in

The sinner always wants to boast in the stuff that he has or the things that he does. He likes to look at his brains and his brawn, his bank account and his pocketbook and then brag unto all the world about how wonderful he is. Never once, though, does the sinner recognize that all these things are but gifts from his Lord and can be taken away at any time. And believe me, God will most certainly take them all away one day, and yet He does so graciously so that we might recognize that we have nothing to boast about except Him. It is our God's aim to have us boast in the only thing that can bring us salvation, and that, of course, is Him. For it is the Lord Who practices steadfast love for the sinner, granting us righteousness before His eyes with a justice that doesn't make sense to our minds, but makes sense in the light of the Gospel. *God, may we boast in nothing except Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21—Riches Toward God

The foolish rich man's actions were not necessarily sinful in themselves. It is not sinful to have plentiful fields or to build bigger barns for your goods. Nor is it sinful to eat, drink, or be merry. Indeed, one should be suspect of the sourpuss who does not find joy in the stuff of God's creation. The man's foolishness lay in that he took no thought at all for his soul. He was not rich toward God. We need to realize this world is not all there is. At death there is a judgment and if we live our lives heedless of this pressing reality, we are just as foolish as this rich man. So have care. Your last hour comes soon. Repent. In Christ, there is forgiveness and joy and riches immeasurably better than mere creature comforts. *Lord Jesus, prepare my heart to receive You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19—Rich in Christ and Good Works

Be rich in good works, not in stuff. Money isn't the root of evil, but loving it is. This misplaced love can trap your heart. St. Paul explains that even though some possessed the greater gifts of the Holy Spirit and eternal life, their flesh betrayed them. They judged the wealth of this bodily life to be more important. They wandered away. "But as for you, O man of God, flee these things." Learn from the Scriptures to treasure Jesus and the saving trust that is already yours through Baptism. Make the good confession. Take hold of eternal life. The Lord may yet bless you with riches. God can make us rich or poor in a day. *O Lord, teach me to set my hope in Your mercy given me through Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34—Not One of Them is Broken

This psalm preaches the crucifixion and Christian comfort. Jesus, in verse 19, is called "the Righteous." Despite His sufferings of body and soul, His heavenly Father vindicated His Son's atonement. He preserved His body from destruction, kept all His bones from being broken (John 19:36), and resurrected His Son on the 3rd day. Christ's vindication is now your own. God's love for you, bought with the priceless treasure of His Son's blood, is established forever. Nothing can undo Jesus' cross or resurrection. You are the Lord's servant. He has put His name on you in Baptism. Boast in the Lord, O saint! "The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned." *Thanks be to You, O Lord, for my redemption. Amen.*