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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

PRAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 14:21c
“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.”

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

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.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 384, LSB 559
Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion
Johann Olearius

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!
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.
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.
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.
THEME OF THE WEEK: The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God

The Holy Spirit calls us into fellowship with God. And in keeping true to His very nature, He freely gives to us the very thing that He calls us to, that He requires of us, “Be perfect,” God declares, and then He makes us perfect through Christ. “Be one with each other and with Me,” He commands, and then Jesus prays for this very thing on our behalf in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the way of your Lord: to command the impossible and then to give it to you. The Holy Spirit calls you into fellowship/communion/unity/koinonia with God, and then He gives it to you. He makes you one with Him, like bride and groom, in death and in life, in joy and in suffering. And all of this He does in the most comforting of ways: He freely gives, and you simply receive.


What a wedding feast! Full of guests that are poor and crippled and blind and lame. No one there to bring an expensive wedding gift. No one to dance until the sun comes up. No one to appreciate the beauty of the ceremony, the flowers and decorations and gorgeous wedding cake. In fact, it seems like everyone who attends would be better suited staying in the streets and lanes of the city where they were found. None of them belong there: not at so rich a banquet. But here they are, invited guests. Here they are, being cheerfully served by the man of the hour. Here they are, the unworthy being made worthy by mere invitation. That is the odd way of our Lord. He graciously welcomes sinners to His wedding feast and then feeds them with His own body and blood, making them one with Him and one with each other. Dear Father, make us one in Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16: Fellowship: Sinners Credited With The Impossible

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it with God’s Word, seeking after it with his whole heart, delighting in His testimonies, and meditating on His precepts. Quite the daunting task: even for the good and diligent man. But I am neither. I know myself and I know that the delight of my sinful flesh does not come by hearing and learning God’s Word. Instead my flesh despises it and does anything but hold it sacred. And yet there stands Christ before my eyes, fulfilling the Psalms as He fulfills God’s Law. This Psalm isn’t about me, but about Jesus for me. His righteousness to my credit. His Gospel proclaimed over my sinful head. And then, as mysterious as fruit budding from a flower, the Word of God dwells up in me and produces the earnest desire to delight in God’s promises. Lord, fulfill that which I cannot and then look upon me in mercy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:13-18: Fellowship: The Sinner’s Selfless Sacrifice

Love is more than dying for someone. That could almost be too easy; maybe even instinctual. We are called to lay down our life for each other and this is not just in death but in life. Christ does this for us. He laid down His life on the cross, but His service did not end there. He took it up again. He ascended into heaven. And from there He serves you every day. His Spirit upon you, His Word whispering to you, His water washing you, and His meal filling you. Him serving you never ends. It continues day and night and will until the end of the age and beyond. That is your Lord: a servant. That is you: a servant: for you can’t be greater than your master. If He is a servant then so are you. And in this is love: true love. No syrupy-sweet emotion, just pure meaty and sustaining service. Christ, may Your service to me instill my service for others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:18-22: The Fellowship Of Conquering Sinners

This much is promised to you: If you conquer then you will sit with Christ, the Conqueror, on His throne. All you have to do is conquer, to be red-hot for Jesus. But more often than not we are lukewarm. We don’t take His counsel. We don’t buy refined gold and pure white garments. And for that we are called to repent. The hardships of the cross aren’t going to get any easier. The only thing that will be distinct and neutrality will only get you spit out. But the Lord says all of this to you because He loves you. And love means He laid down His life for you and still to this day serves you in the very midst of persecution. You don’t have to go it alone. Christ conquered first and placed everything under His feet; and then He gave it all to you. The victory is complete and sure. He has already made you a conqueror. Lord, may I be numbered with Your conquering saints. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 9:1-10: Fellowship In Wisdom

Wisdom calls throughout the town, gathering together the simple and all who lack sense. The sinner is not wise, but notice that this is the only one whom Christ is calling. He doesn’t call the wise, the healthy, the rich, or the perfect. Instead He calls the foolish, diseased, poor, sinner. He calls you. He calls me. He calls us into His house, right up to His table. He calls us to eat of His bread and drink of His wine. He calls us to fear God and then He gives us the knowledge of the Holy One to do so. Jesus calls us by the Gospel of His cross so that we might hear the Good News and receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. All this He gives to you, here in time and there in eternity. All this He does to make you wise in Him. O God, let us fear You and thus begin to be wise. Amen.