PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11
Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses,* for they are | from of old. Let not my enemies triumph | over me.* Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles! To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.* O my God, I trust in You: let me not | be ashamed: do not remember the sins | of my youth:* according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness’ sake. Good and upright | is the Lord:* therefore He teaches sinners | in the way. For Your name’s | sake, O Lord,* pardon my iniquity, for | it is great.

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK  Genesis 32:26
I will not let You go unless You bless me.

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)
PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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 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.

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
When In the Hour of Utmost Need
TLH 522, LSB 615
Paul Eber

1. When in the hour of utmost need
   We know not where to look for aid;
   When days and nights of anxious thought
   Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,

2. For Thou hast promised graciously
   To hear all those who cry to Thee
   Through Him whose name alone is great,
   Our Savior and our Advocate.

3. And thus we come, O God, today
   And all our woes before Thee lay:
   For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
   Perplexed by fears on every hand.

4. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,
   Absolve us through Thy boundless grace,
   Be with us in our anguish still,
   Free us at last from every ill

5. When in the hour of utmost need
   We know not where to look for aid:
   When days and nights of anxious thought
   Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,

6. O God, our 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.
THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

Jesus tells the parable of a persistent widow who continued to nag an unrighteous judge for justice. Eventually he said, “Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice.” In response Jesus asks, “And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night?” Of course! The Lord is not unrighteous, but righteous in all His ways. He is the Lord our Righteousness. “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?” Faith is persistent also, persistent in holding to God’s own Words. Like Jacob, grabbing God’s heel and not releasing Him until He gave His blessing, faith grabs on to the Father through Christ and is not content until life, salvation, forgiveness, and every good gift are ours—not at our own request and earning, but at Christ’s expense and gift.

Lord, increase my faith and draw me to You by Your cross. Amen.

SCriPture: Matthew 15:21-28—Woman, Great Is Your Faith

The disciples were given every teaching, every promise, every advantage. The Canaanite woman has nothing but a rebuke and a slur against her from Jesus. Why, then, are the disciples so faithless and she so faithful? Perhaps it is the blessedness of affliction, cross, and suffering. These cause us to cling relentlessly to Christ. In any case, what is most distinguishing of saving faith is its persistence. It is bold to catch Jesus in any Word He’s given, never letting go. Gentiles receive what didn’t belong to them. But so it is with grace for everyone.

Lord, redeem us from all iniquities and raise us from the depths. Amen.

THEME OF THE WEEK: God’s Will & Word is Our Sanctification

St. Paul anticipates the objections of our Old Adam when he adds verse 8: “These aren’t my words, but God’s Word—the very God who gives the Holy Spirit.” The will of God includes our sanctification. He called us not to impurity, but in and for holiness. Thus He has called us to self-control and self-mortification with repentance, not licentiousness. To carry on into manifest and impenitent sin grieves the very Spirit who gives faith and life. Thus, God warns. The Old Adam must die, now that God has called us into His holiness.

Lord, cleanse my heart, that I may be holy as You are holy. Amen.

Lord, preserve Your church. Amen.

SCriPture: Isaiah 45:20-25—Righteous in the Lord or Nowhere

“Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.” Those who were incensed against Him will do so in shame. The Israel of God shall be justified and shall glory in Him. His Word has gone out in righteousness, sworn by Himself: the Lord our Righteousness, Jesus Christ—and there’s none other God! Of Him all will say, “only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.” That is a truth that the unbelieving dash themselves against. For us who are being saved it is a delight: He is our righteousness.

Lord, deliver me in Your righteousness, and never let me be ashamed of my hope. Amen.

SCriPture: Mark 9:17-29—How Long?

James paints the picture of the body of Christ at its best—though not what we’d expect. This body needs constant compassion in body and soul. This body suffers, but it bears it with prayer. Receiving care in the name of the Lord in sickness and in health. Above all, living in the forgiveness of sins. In this world, the church is never without sinners. What keeps her from hypocrisy is that she confesses and forgives, one to another. She is ready to rescue those who wander from the truth. And she is constant in prayer, because faith knows that it must receive everything from Christ.

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! Amen.

SCriPture: James 5:13-20—The Body of Christ Lives by Faith

Psalm 25 is a good remedy to the accusation that “the Church is full of hypocrites.” It is first and foremost a confession of our sins. But it is also a plea that the Lord would guide us, lead us, teach us, instruct us, correct us, and sanctify us. Those who wait for the Lord, endure suffering, and bear hatred. They do so in integrity and uprightness. By no means can their uprightness or integrity override their guilt. The Lord must pardon our sin, because it is great. That is what Christ has come to do. He is Israel’s redemption.

Psalm 25:25 is a good remedy to the accusation that “the Church is full of hypocrites.” It is first and foremost a confession of our sins. But it is also a plea that the Lord would guide us, lead us, teach us, instruct us, correct us, and sanctify us. Those who wait for the Lord, endure suffering, and bear hatred. They do so in integrity and uprightness. By no means can their uprightness or integrity override their guilt. The Lord must pardon our sin, because it is great. That is what Christ has come to do. He is Israel’s redemption.

Lord, instruct me in the way You choose, and deliver me. Amen.