

“He Suffered the Opposition of Hell”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
 for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
 Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
 for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
 the troubles of my heart | have enlarged;*
 bring me out of | my distresses!
 Look on my affliction | and my pain,*
 and forgive | all my sins.
 Keep my soul, and de- | liver me;*
 let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 123:1-2**

“To you I lift up my eyes, O You Who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He has mercy upon us.”

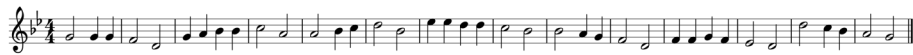
7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Lord Of Our Life and God Of Our Salvation** TLH 258, LSB 609
 Matthaues Apelles von Lowenstern



1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation.
 Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
 Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
 Lord God Almighty.
2. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuaging;
 Peace in Thy Church where brothers are engaging;
 Peace when the world its busy war is waging.
 Calm Thy foes' raging.
3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor faileth;
 Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin assaileth;
 Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell prevaileth;
 Grant us Thy peace, Lord.
4. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driven;
 Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiven;
 Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven,
 Peace in Thy heaven.

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: He Suffered the Opposition of Hell

In this third week of Lent, we continue to keep our eyes fixed on our Lord Jesus Christ, “the founder and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). He who ransacked and plundered the devil’s house (Matt. 11:21-22), Who gave Himself up as a “fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph. 5:1) for our sin, and Who defeated our death is our sole “defense against all our enemies.” He alone is our refuge, our strength and our salvation!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28 Jesus Plundered the Strong Man’s House

Jesus suffered constant scorn and rejection from those under the thumb of Satan. In this instance, some were attempting to cancel Jesus, completely discrediting Him and His work, by labeling Him to be in league with “Beelzebul, the prince of demons” (v. 15). But this makes as much sense as $1 + 1 = 0$! Jesus not only refutes this illogical charge, He proclaims that the kingdom of God has indeed come in Him. He has come to plunder the strong man’s house and break his grip over men. Satan is a formidable foe, but one that has been defeated! Jesus cast out demons with His little finger and sent the evil one packing! What Satan thought was his victory in Jesus’ crucifixion was in reality his defeat! *Thank You, O Lord, for defeating the arch enemy for us. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43 Hope in God and in His Salvation

As those who walk the way of the cross following our Lord Jesus, the road may at times seem a silent and lonely road. Like the psalmist, we may wonder when God will vindicate us and defend us from the ungodly and the wicked in this world. With the psalmist, we long for the Day of the Lord to come! As we go to the altar of God, the light and truth of His Word comforts us and reminds us that we are not alone and God is not silent. Jesus walked the lonely road for us and truly experienced the silence of God for us. Though He suffered death and hell for us, He was vindicated on the third day as Victor over sin, death and hell. On the day of His coming, the Lord will vindicate His people forever. You have His Word on it! *Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-9 Walking as Children of the Light

When you shine a flashlight on something in the dark, the light reveals and exposes what was hiding in the darkness. As those who have been called out of the darkness into the marvelous light of Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism, we detest the deeds of darkness and seek to walk as “children of the light” (v. 8). Walking in the light of Christ we seek to “lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do” holding sacred God’s gift of marriage (SC I, 6). Walking in light of our baptism, we die daily to sin and evil desires so that we might rise anew with Christ putting on “the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24). *Help me, O Lord, to daily die to sin and rise anew in Christ. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:1-7 David’s Victory Song

Of the great songs recorded for us in the Holy Scriptures, David’s victory song ranks among the greatest! As David recalls a time when death was imminent, caught up in “the snares of death,” “the torrents of destruction,” and “the cords of Sheol” (v. 5), he praises the LORD for His mighty hand of rescue and deliverance! Like David, we face many enemies in this life who seek to harm and destroy our life and faith. But take heart and be of good cheer friends in the Lord Jesus, these enemies cannot truly harm us. Our Mighty Warrior, Christ Jesus, has won the final victory for us and one day will deliver us from all our enemies! *O Lord, in the midst of life’s tribulations, help me to take refuge in You; my Rock and my Deliverer. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:42-51 Abiding with Jesus in the Truth

There is no neutral ground when it comes to Jesus! Anyone who is not with Jesus is against Him. And if you are not with Jesus, then you are driven by “the father of lies,” the devil (v. 44). Such was the case for the religious elites who refused to believe that Jesus was sent from the Father. They refused to believe He was “the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12). They refused to believe the truth; that they were slaves to sin and that Jesus could set them free (Jn. 8:33). They claimed to be children of Abraham, but in reality were children of the devil. Thanks be to God that His Word has revealed the truth about Jesus to us, called us to faith and put us with Jesus – on His side! *Thank You, O Lord, for Your Word of light and truth that sets us free in Jesus. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 2:1-7 Love to the Loveless Shown

The exalted Christ encourages and exhorts the Christian Church in Ephesus. He commends them for their “patient endurance” and for having “tested” those who claimed to be “apostles” (sent ones from God), but were not (v. 2). However, it seems their love for one another has grown cold and is not in keeping with Christ’s command to love as He has loved (Jn. 15:12-17). Thus, our Lord calls the Ephesians to repent and turn from their loveless ways. The good news for them and for us is that God loved the loveless by sending His Son into the world; “In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 Jn. 4:10). *Keep us, O Lord, in Your perpetual mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 Pray with Boldness and Confidence in the LORD

Luther reminds us in the *Small Catechism* that God “has commanded us to pray... and has promised to hear us.” Psalm 86 is the prayer of one who calls upon the LORD with “boldness and confidence,” ever certain that He hears and answers our prayers. David appears to be in great distress, his physical life in great danger! Yet, David does not despair! He pleads for the LORD’s help and grace, for Him to save. He knows that when he calls upon the LORD in the day of trouble, the LORD will answer (v. 7)! How can David be so certain? Because he knows who his God is; He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (v. 15). *O Lord, thank You for always hearing us when we call upon You for help. Amen.*

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