



“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5**

Vindicate | me, O God,*
 and plead my cause against an ungodly | nation;
 oh, deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man!*
 for You are the God | of my strength; (Psalm 43:1–2)
 Oh, send out Your light | and Your truth!*
 Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your | holy hill.
 Then I will go to the al- | tar of God,*
 to God my ex- | ceeding joy.
 Why are you cast down, | O my soul?*
 And why are you disquieted with- | in me?
 Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,*
 the help of my countenance | and my God.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Corinthians 1:30a**
 “And because of [God] you are in Christ Jesus.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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 **Christ, the Life of All the Living**
 TLH 151, LSB 420
 Ernst Christoph Homburg



1. Christ, the Life of all the living,
 Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
 Who, Thyself for me once giving
 To the darkest depths of woe,—
 Through thy sufferings, death, and merit
 I eternal life inherit:
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
 Evermore and evermore.

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of March 17-23, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

Jesus knew what awaited Him: suffering and death. Think of that. He knew that He would suffer and die... at the hands of His own people. His creation. The very people that He had formed from the dust of the ground and given life would put Him to death and put Him in the ground. No longer would they run away from God like Adam and Eve did, but instead run at Him in hatred and blood-thirsty rage. Yet Jesus' life was not taken from Him: He laid it down freely, willingly. He gave Himself to redeem the very people who had rejected Him.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 "Life Instead of Death"

Jesus was accused by His own people of being demon-possessed. They were against Him with such hatred that they picked up stones to destroy Him. And for what? What had He done that was so offensive? He promised life instead of death. Sin works in our hearts like it did in Adam and Eve's: it always desires death and runs away from Life. Jesus comes to create new and clean hearts in us, working new life and faith where there was only death and unbelief. By faith we cling to His Words of life. *God grant us life according to Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 "Whose Prayer?"

Psalm 54 is a prayer of David. He cries out to God to save him because his enemies have risen up against him. They seek to destroy him - but he knows that with God there is deliverance and so he praises Him. These are also Jesus' words too, aren't they? (Read those previous sentences again.) This is Jesus' prayer to His Father! He was hunted by His enemies who sought to destroy Him - and in Jesus' own deliverance He delivers us. This means the psalm is *your* prayer too: *I thank You, Lord, for You have delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 "Purified Consciences"

The conscience was God's good gift at creation. But since the Fall, man's conscience is broken. Sinful man now thinks that either he's just fine OR that if he's not, he can pay off God to patch things up. The only way a conscience can be fixed is by One who is perfect. Pure. Unblemished. Jesus alone is such a one. He recreates us in His image, offering Himself to God to purify our consciences from those dead works. In Him we stand before God perfectly: eternally redeemed. *Blessed Lord Jesus, continually cleanse us by Your blood! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 "Plural and Singular"

"In you shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Plural and singular: One man shall bless all the families of the earth. Abraham's descendants would n't bless the people... his Descendant, Jesus, would. And through Him all the families of the earth have been blessed! He alone has given His life for the price of your sin (and the sins of every family of the earth.) In Him you have been and are and will be blessed. During this season of Lent rejoice in the blessing of Abraham's Descendant, Jesus. *Blessed Savior, bless us and our families with the joy of Your salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 "The Light Burden"

Simon from Cyrene was walking under the weight of the cross. To every appearance Simon was the condemned man, yet at Golgotha it wasn't Simon on the cross! There Jesus took Simon's place. So it is with us. Jesus calls us to take up our crosses and follow Him, but not for the payment of sins. He lays His cross upon us... and in that cross we have blessing and life. From that cross flows the Absolution that you hear, the baptism with which you are baptized, and the Supper of Salvation. *Lord Jesus, teach me to daily rejoice in Your cross which You have laid upon me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 "Ears to Hear"

God uses what looks weak to shame the strong. He uses things that appear foolish to shame the wise. How true that is. Consider Jesus. He didn't appear strong or wise. He looked almost exactly *opposite* of what people expected the Savior would be. Yet this is precisely how God's kingdom would come. It's true even today. God's kingdom comes to us through what appears to be foolish and weak: words and preaching. Yet in that Word of God is found true wisdom and strength that not even death nor hell can overcome! *Lord God, give us ears to always hear and believe it! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 "God is For You"

"And now shall my head be lifted up above my enemies all around me." (Ps. 27:6) It's easy to go about this life with our head drooped. Everything and everyone is against us... or that's the way it seems anyway. Even if it were true, God is not against us. Because God is *for* us, He has given Jesus for us and our salvation. And in Jesus every word of Psalm 27 (and every other psalm) is true for us. So lift up your heads! The LORD is *for* you! *Lord Jesus, You are the God of my salvation. Give me joy as Your redeemed. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Pastor Hopfensperger. He and Kirsten are blessed with four children: Andrew (and wife Christal), Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah. He serves Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky, Michigan. (www.peacelutheransandusky.com)