

“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 **Luke 11:20**

“But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

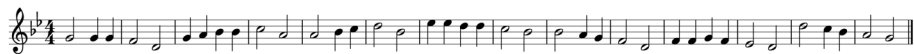
7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

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
 Matthaus 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 assuag-
 ing;
 Peace in Thy Church where brothers are en-
 gaging;
 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 as-
 saileth;
 Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell pre-
 vaileth;
 Grant us Thy peace, Lord.
4. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driv-
 en;
 Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiv-
 en;
 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

The reality of the devil is inescapable during Lent. In the first two weeks of this season we have heard how he tempted our Lord in the wilderness and how one of his demons severely oppressed the daughter of a Canaanite woman. The Scriptures are clear: Satan exists, and he is a liar and murderer from the beginning. But take heart! "For us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected!" As strong as Satan may be, Jesus Christ is infinitely stronger. He has attacked and overcome the forces of hell. He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to His blessed kingdom. By the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of our testimony, the devil is conquered, and "the Kingdom ours remaineth."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11: 14-28 "The Stronger Man"

The best description of the devil's power is "pomp." It's a farce. It's a show. There's a whole genre of Hollywood films dedicated to the topic of dark spiritual power against which the puny and pathetic Christians are helpless. But it's all an act. Exorcism movies where the demons are next to invincible is hellish wish fulfillment, nothing more. Jesus commands the demons by His Word. There's no contest of strength. He speaks, and they recoil in terror. Why? Their prince, the devil, has been stripped of his armor. God's blood shed on the cross robbed the devil of the only thing he held against us, sin. But now it is washed away. Jesus has reconciled you to God. *I thank You, Lord, for plundering my soul from the devil through Jesus' blood. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43 "Can It Bring Christ Down from the Cross?"

Our enemies surround us. The culture is against us. It looks like God lost control. Maybe He's punishing us. The psalmist finds shelter at the altar of the Lord. Things look bad. Fine. Can any of it bring Christ down from the cross? Christ was crucified for you. God already punished Him; it is finished. The victory is ours. Why are you cast down? It is still finished. Nobody can take that from you, no matter what they say. If it can't bring Christ down from the cross, the holy hill of Calvary is enough to save us. *Lord Jesus, send out Your Light and Your truth and lead us into the way of peace You won by Your death and resurrection. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5: 1-9 "Imitators of God"

This is about sanctification. Paul's teaching how we remain holy. By faith, our souls are saved. Our bodies are set aside from God's wrath so they may be blessed by the resurrection of the just. Having this faith, we must become, as St. Paul says, "imitators of God." As God has loved you in Christ, offering His own Son as an expiating sacrifice, so also our lives must be offered up in love for our neighbors. Nothing else makes sense. Any other kind of life would be a denial of the mercy of Jesus' cross. Don't be deceived. You can't go back to your old sins. Christian thanksgiving has nothing to do with impurity. Remain with your God's sanctifying Word. Walk as children of light. *Grant me Your Spirit to do those things that You find pleasing. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22: 1-7 "The Lord is Our Deliverer"

King David must have been some warrior. "Saul has slain his thousands, David his tens of thousands." That is impressive. The military feats of David are legendary. But David does not trust in his strength and ingenuity; He trusts the Lord. David knows that victory is in the Lord's hands. Salvation is the Lord's work. We hear this great humility of faith in his song. "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior." No doubt David, like you and me, was tempted to trust in his strength and wisdom, but he teaches us a better way, the way of faith. *Lord, we call on You. You are worthy to be praised. So shall we be saved from our enemies. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8: 42-51 "Children of God"

Even in earthly matters we know it's "like father, like son." How much more so is this true in spiritual matters! If your father is the devil, which is true of all unbelievers, then you will be like him in murder, deceit, blasphemy, and finally death. But through the waters of Holy Baptism you have become beloved children of God. Having Him as your Heavenly Father, therefore, you follow Him in loving Him, loving His Son Jesus also, hearing His Word, and finally possessing eternal life. Almighty God, we give You thanks for claiming us as Your beloved children in Holy Baptism. *Grant us to love You and receive Your Word as truth. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 2: 1-7 "The Way of Love"

The church at Ephesus was diligent in their works, patiently enduring, refusing to bear with those who persisted in evil, and rigorously upholding the pure teaching of doctrine. Only one thing did the Lord have against them: that in upholding all these, they had not love. They had abandoned the way of Love. They had become a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. Where love is lacking from any good work and from all pure doctrine, let that person repent and rekindle the Love of Christ! There Christ will freely forgive and restore that person in full love. *O Lord, forgive us for all the times we let love languish and restore us in Your perfect Love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 "Praise in the Midst of Suffering"

A striking feature of this psalm, and others like it, is that David praises God before he is delivered by Him. Before David prays for salvation from the insolent and ruthless men who rise against him (vv. 14-17), he gives thanks to God and glorifies His Name (vv. 8-13). Through faith in Jesus, we too may be certain of our final heavenly reward, though now we are poor and needy. In this fallen world, the devil still seeks our life, but the Lord helps and comforts us. Therefore, we confidently glorify His name now and forever. *Answer us, O Lord, in the day of our trouble when we call upon You. Amen.*

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