



“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”

**5** 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.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6**

“Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.”

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

**8** 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.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** 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,  
 4. 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.

5. 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.  
 6. 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.

**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 5-11, 2023

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

The Lord promises to hear our prayers. He gives us the very words to pray to Him, especially when we have trouble finding those words. And when we pray to Him, we ask for very specific blessings. We ask Him to keep His promises. We ask Him to guide us in the paths of righteousness. We ask Him to fight our unbelief. We ask Him for healing, joy, and forgiveness. We ask Him to instruct us in His truth. And as we ask, so He answers, for He has promised not only to hear but also to answer, for the sake of His beloved Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 – Persistence of Prayer

Prayer is persistent and bold and clings to God's Word and Promises. We see this in the lady who approaches Jesus. She asks for her daughter to be healed. Jesus ignores her. She persists, and the disciples beg her to be dismissed. Jesus says He wasn't sent to her. She begs all the more. He calls her a dog, and she consents. If you will have me be a dog, she says, then a dog I will be, for even dogs receive gifts from their master, even if only crumbs. She trusts that she has, not an insult, but a promise in those words from Jesus. And Jesus praises her for this faith and persistence, granting her prayer, and healing her daughter. *Lord, help me to be persistent and bold in my prayers, trusting Your promises to hear and answer them. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 – Praying Words from God to God

What do we do when we are in the midst of great turmoil and anguish, when we don't have the words to say or the petitions to bring to God? We do what the Psalmist instructs. We cry out from the depths: the depths of our agony, the depths of our sin; the depths of our suffering. We use the words given to us here and elsewhere by the Holy Spirit. We call upon God to act, but especially we call upon Him to keep His promises to us. We call upon Him to hide His face from our sins, to give us His Word, and to redeem us from our iniquities. When we don't know what to pray, God gives us the words, in the Psalms and Lord's Prayer, and He is pleased to hear and answer those pleas. *Lord, thank You for giving me the words to bring to You in prayer. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 – A Life Lived in the Word of Truth

The Lord brings us to faith through His Word, but He doesn't leave us in the same spot we were before. We are set upon a path in the faith, and we are bid to walk on that path. We are exhorted to live, not as we once used to, in darkness and unbelief, but in sanctification and truth. We are bid to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, and in a manner which is pleasing to God Who has purchased us and ransomed us from the futile ways of our fathers. We have been called to holiness: in faith, word, and deed. And the Lord delights to not only set us on this path, but also to direct our steps and walk along us in the way. He delights to show us how to please God more and more as we live in this life. *Lord, help me to walk according to Your Word. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25 – One God, One Savior

When the Lord rebukes us, it's always for a particular purpose: to direct us back to Himself, to His Words and Promises, and to His Redemption. When we walk in the ways of the world, we inevitably follow after other gods, but the Lord will have none of that. He comes to us in the Scriptures and points to Himself and His work and reminds us that there is no other God besides Him. And more than that, He has come to us, not in terrors and wrath, but in righteousness and mercy. He has come not as a tyrant, but as a Savior. He has come not to destroy us, but to destroy our sin on the cross of His Son. That's what He directs us back toward and what we are to rejoice and take comfort in. *Lord, keep my heart and mind always on You, the one true God. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29 – Believing Unbelief

"I believe; help my unbelief!" This cry of the father of the demon-possessed boy encapsulates wonderfully the state of all our believing. While we live on this side of the resurrection we have faith, brought about and sustained by the Lord's Word, but we also carry around the old man, who fights against that faith. And more than that the world and the devil fight against it too. We believe and we don't believe at the same time. And so we pray that as the Lord has given us faith, that He would also continue to fight against our unbelieving. And He does, and with the same thing He's given us faith: with His Word. He continues to plant that seed so that it would bear abundant fruit in us. *Lord, I believe: help my unbelief! Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20 – Pray, Sing, Confess

It seems like simple advice but it's really quite profound and wonderful also. What do you do if you're suffering? You pray to God who alone can help your suffering. What do you do when you have joy? You sing to the one who has given that joy. What do you do when you're sick? You call those whom the Lord has appointed in that place to come and pray with you to the Great Physician. What do you do when you see your sins? You confess them, not so that you would be further burdened, but so that the one Who has died for those sins, Who has buried them in the grave, and Who has been raised for your justification, would declare to you that they too are forgiven. *Lord, thank You for giving me the gifts of prayer, song, and confession. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 – Instruction in the Faith

Teach me. Instruct me. Lead me. There's a great temptation to think that when we've come to the knowledge of the faith we're beyond the instruction of the Lord. But St. David reminds us here that the prayer of faith always includes further instruction from the Lord. That He would lead and guide us in righteousness. That He would instruct us in His Word and sanctify us in that truth. That He would teach us the path to walk in holiness and sanctification. And especially that we would be taught to continue to place all our trust in Him and His unflinching work for us and for our sake, including our redemption and the forgiveness of our sins in Christ. *Lord, thank You for instructing me in Your Word. Amen.*

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