

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 31:9, 15, 17, 1-2, 5, 24**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in / trouble;\*  
deliver me from the hand of my / enemies.  
Do not let me be a- / shamed, O Lord,\*  
for I have called u- / pon You.  
In You, O Lord, I / put my trust;\*  
let me never / be ashamed;  
Deliver me in Your / righteousness.\*  
Bow down Your ear to me; deliver me / speedily.  
Into Your hand I commit my / spirit;\*  
You have redeemed me, O Lord / God of truth.  
Be of good courage, and He shall streng- / then your heart,\*  
all you who hope / in the Lord.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 116:13**  
“I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy unto Your humble servants, that we who put no trust in our own merits may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment, but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Farewell I Gladly Bid Thee**

TLH 407  
Valerius Herberger



1. Farewell I gladly bid Thee,  
False, evil world, farewell.  
Thy life is vain and sinful,  
With Thee I would not dwell.  
I long to be in heaven,  
In that untroubled sphere  
Where they will be rewarded  
Who served their God while here.

2. By Thy good counsel lead me,  
O Son of God, my Stay;  
In each perplexing trial  
Help me, O Lord, I pray.  
Mine hour of sorrow shorten,  
Support my fainting heart,  
From every cross deliver,  
The crown of life impart.  
3. When darkness round me gathers,  
Thy name and cross, still bright,

Deep in my heart are sparkling  
Like stars in blackest night.  
O heart, this image cherish:  
The Christ on Calvary,  
How patiently He suffered  
And shed His blood for me!

5. Lord, write my name, I pray Thee,  
Now in the Book of Life  
And with all true believers  
Take me where joys are rife.  
There let me bloom and flourish,  
Thy perfect freedom prove,  
And tell, as I adore Thee,  
How faithful was Thy love.



**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 November 17-23, 2024

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Age Before the End

We live in the last days. Yet raise up your heads and rejoice, for the end of all things ushers in the new heavens and the new earth. We do not await destruction, but entrance into the feast of eternity, the wedding feast which the King has prepared for His Son. As the choir masters teach us to sing in Psalm 45:15 - "With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king." That is how we too will enter eternity.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:15-28 "Look! I Have Told You!"

You know the plan. You know what's going to happen. Jesus clearly told us what will happen before this world is brought to an end. We shouldn't be surprised to see the world's calamities... yet we always seem to be. Why is that? Sinful hearts do not believe what He has said. Repent and believe the good news! The same Jesus Who has lived and died for you sits at the Father's right hand and will come again. He has promised to gather you to Himself. He is faithful to His promises! *Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 116 "In These Gray and Latter Days"

We are looking forward to the life of the world to come. With this anticipation, how do we live as Christ's redeemed people in these days? As those who are lifting up the cup of the Lord and calling on His name! (*The Hebrew verbs denote ongoing activity.*) Praying and communing are regular, ongoing activities for those who are in Christ. They are the most needed things in these days before the life of the world to come. Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: *O keep us steadfast till that day when each will be Your welcomed guest in heaven's high and holy feast. Amen. (LSB 623:5)*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "Grieving Differently"

Christian hope is sure and certain: the resurrection of the body according to Jesus' promise. He has gone the way of death and resurrection before us; He promises the same to all who trust in Him. Our hope is the assurance of what will happen, but has not happened yet. What it means for us is that we grieve differently than unbelievers. None who die in Christ are dead forever, but will live - bodily - just as He Himself lives. *Lord Jesus, set my heart at peace with the glad assurance that You have conquered death and give life to all who trust in You. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:12-17 "Engraved in His Palms"

God warns the people of Israel that going into the Promised Land and becoming filled to the brim with all good things would stuff and satisfy them into forgetting Him. Other things would take His place. The sinful human heart is so easily captivated with the goods of this world. The same warning is fitting for us as well. "Be on your guard," Jesus warns. Yet even in our sinful forgetting, we have a gracious God Who promises to never forget us - because, look! We are engraved in the palms of His nail-pierced hands! *Gracious God, turn our hearts to You that we may not forget You. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:20-33 "Look! The Kingdom of God!"

Do you see the signs of the last days? We are so eager to try to discern the coming of the Lord's kingdom that we sometimes miss what He's already given us. Repent. The kingdom of God is amongst us: people from every nation, language, and tribe are gathered around God's proclaimed Word. The body and blood of the Lamb of God distributed to souls that hunger and thirst for His righteousness. Here is the kingdom of God in your midst. *Lord Jesus, through Your Word and Supper sustain us in these last days until that day when we see You face to face. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3:3-15 "Perhaps Today!"

Every Christian generation has lived and died in the last days. Yet while we wait for Christ's visible return, we are not doing nothing. Waiting is hard work! Always expecting, always eager, always watchful, always with the hopeful assumption that "perhaps today!" is the joyful moment of His return. Are there fearful things in store for the end of the world? Yes, but they will give way to enduring joy. Like a woman waiting for a newborn, her pain soon gives way to joy. *Heavenly Father, fill us with expectant and joyful waiting for the return of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 18:25-50 "More Than Conquerors"

The LORD has brought great salvation and deliverance to His people. To you! He has brought great salvation and deliverance to you. You are not lost or bound up in sin or slavery to the devil, even when it may seem otherwise. By the LORD's Anointed, King David's Seed and Offspring, (Jesus!) He has shown you His steadfast love. And that means you may face each day until the end with the assurance that He has exalted you over your worst enemy: death itself. With Jesus you are victorious over the grave! *Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life! Amen.*

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