

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Jeremiah 29:11-12, Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, / says the Lord,*
thoughts of peace and not of / evil,
Then you will call upon Me and go and / pray to Me,*
and I will listen / unto you.
Lord, You have been favorable / to Your land;*
You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.
Show us Your / mercy, Lord,*
and grant us Your sal- / vation.
Surely His salvation is near to those who / fear Him,*
that glory may dwell / in our land.
Truth shall spring out / of the earth,*
and righteousness shall look down from / heaven.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 124:8**
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Absolve, we implore You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; 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
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

TLH 261, LSB 655
Martin Luther



- 1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make
known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.
- 3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.



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: **Resisting the Wicked World**

The world is wicked. Through sin all of creation has fallen and therefore all of creation, the world and all who dwell within, have become enemies of God. But even knowing this, we can be certain that God has all these things, wicked or not, placed under His feet. He rides them like a lame horse: While they may swerve this way and that, they will inevitably achieve His desired purpose. And so we sit in the promises of God, knowing that we have overcome the world through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. “And take they our life,

Goods, fame, child, and wife, Though these all be gone, Our victory has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.”

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 22:15-22—Trapping Jesus...**

Forget about the taxes, it isn't about the taxes. It is about self-justification and we all want to do it. We all want to trap God in His words so that we can go about our own lives and, by our own works be saved. And so we riddle God some stupid riddle thinking that we have Him cornered. But we don't. We will never “out-Law” God. The real riddle here, the real incomprehensible Word that makes no sense and ends our self-righteous ways is that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. The Gospel is where God traps Himself with our sin and covers us with His righteousness. We walk away marveling at the completely backwards forgiveness of sins that has freed us from the snares of our own sinful flesh. *Gracious Father, enlighten our hearts with the Gospel that we may seek salvation in Christ and not the Law. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 124—If It Were Not For God...**

We would be done for, absolutely done for. All of our enemies would have already overtaken us. Our own sinful flesh would have sentenced us to destruction. The world would have caused us already to turn inward, looking to our own works for salvation. And the devil would have already brought us to the point of despair, making us believe that the forgiveness of sins was not for us. If it were not for God, all of this would have already happened; and indeed it should have, for this is what we deserve. Yet the Lord surprises us again and saves us from all of these horrible enemies. Through the death of Jesus that is given to us in time and space through Word and water and bread and wine, the snare is broken and we have escaped. Let all of Israel now say that our help is in the name of the Lord. *Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us over to our enemies! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Philippians 3:17-21—It IS All Subject To Him...**

Even now, as we wait for the Lord, as the world wages war against us, as our sinful flesh desires earthly things and to glory in shame, and as the devil seeks to devour us through our sin, even now we have hope. For everything, even the work of the world, our sinful flesh, and the devil, is subject to God and placed under the feet of Jesus. We belong to God and have citizenship in heaven even as we live out our days here on this fallen earth. The promise and comfort is that these things will not last forever. And our earthly bodies will not have to endure them unto eternity. For Christ shall come and rescue us from them all and transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. And that promise is ours right now, even if we don't experience it in fulness quite yet. *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and save us from this fallen world. Amen.*



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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 32:1-8—Until Then...**

Christ has already come and He will certainly come again. All the mouths of the haughty and foolish will be closed; perhaps some of them have already been. But not all of them, not for eternity, not yet. And so we wait. We wait for the return of our Lord who has come once and has already won the victory over all of these ungodly foolish scoundrels. And He will come again to judge both the living and the dead. It will be done, for God has promised it. But until then, we hide away in the Lord and His Church. We cling on to the gifts given here, the “heaven on earth” type things of the Word and water and bread and wine. We cling to them, knowing that the fullness of those gifts are promised to us today, even as the stammering fools try to keep them all from us. *Righteous King, grant us safety and protection in this world as we wait for the world to come. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 17:11-19—Where Is God?**

The Samaritan is commend, the other nine are not. But this is not because he came back and thanked Jesus, not really, but because he came back praising God and then fell at the feet of God in the flesh. For God was no longer locked in some room in the Temple and sinners no longer needed to find a priest to intercede on their behalf. All of that is right there in Jesus, in flesh and blood, the victim and the priest, God and man. We do the same, seeking Jesus as the one who intercedes on our behalf with the Father because He Himself is One with the Father. All good gifts come from the Lord and so they all come from the hands of Jesus the Christ. We thank and praise Him, serve and obey Him because, now that we are cleansed from all unrighteousness, what else could we possibly do? *Gracious Lord, save us on behalf of Christ. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Romans 13:1-7—The Fourth Commandment...**

Christians respect all who are in places of authority because we know through the Fourth Commandment that our Lord has structured life in this temporal world to be governed by those whom He has put in charge. These offices are good and right positions of authority whose sole purpose is to punish the evil doers so that the rest of us can live in relative quietness and safety. In honoring the authorities placed above us we in turn honor God, for they hold the sword given to them by God. Even when temporal authorities become corrupt, we can be certain that we have a God who has authority over them and has promised to work through all things for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose. *Gracious Judge, thank You for the gift of temporal authorities that You have blessed us with. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 31:16-24—The Words Of Jesus...**

We can call this Psalm our own, sing it in unison together in the Divine Service, and pray it aright only because Jesus already claimed it as His own, cried it out alone from the cross, and prayed for us despite of ourselves. Jesus does this sort of thing. He claims Scripture as His own, fulfills it while bleeding and dying, and then grants all of the promises of it to us. We sinners, Christ died for us. “The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever” and He is never slow in fulfilling His promises, as we would often count slowness. He is true and faithful to His Word, true and faithful to you! Why? You are the righteousness of God because you are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. *Father, may we in confidence, at the hour of our death, pray the prayer that is ours through Christ: Into Your hands I commend my spirit. Amen.*

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