



“Singlehearted Love of God in Christ”

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Ecclesiasticus 36:16-17a; Psalm 122:1, 6, 8-9

Give peace, O Lord, to those who / wait for You:\*  
 and let Your prophets be proven / faithful.  
 Hear the prayer of Your / servants,\*  
 according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your / people.  
 I was glad when they / said to me,\*  
 “Let us go into the house / of the Lord.”  
 Pray for the peace of Je- / rusalem:\*  
 “May they prosper who / love you.  
 For the sake of my brethren and com- / panions,\*  
 I will now say, “Peace be with- / in you.”  
 Because of the house of the / Lord our God\*  
 I will / seek your good.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 John 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, forasmuch as without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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, Thee I Love With All My Heart**

TLH 429, LSB 708  
 Martin Shalling



1. Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
 I pray Thee ne'er from me depart,  
 With tender mercies cheer me.  
 Earth has no pleasure I would share,  
 Yea, heaven itself were void and bare  
 If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
 And should my heart for sorrow break,  
 My trust in Thee no one could shake.  
 Thou art the Portion I have sought;  
 Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
 Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

3. Lord, let at last Thine angels come,  
 To Abram's bosom bear me home,  
 That I may die unfearing;  
 And in its narrow chamber keep  
 My body safe in peaceful sleep  
 Until Thy reappearing.  
 And then from death awaken me  
 That these mine eyes with joy may see,  
 O Son of God, Thy glorious face,  
 My Savior and my Fount of grace,  
 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 My prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
 And I will praise Thee without end.

**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: Singlehearted Love of God in Christ

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever” sings the Psalmist (Ps. 136:1). Yahweh revealed Himself to Moses as “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex. 34:6b-7). Throughout the Old Testament Yahweh is identified over and over again as the God of steadfast love and faithfulness. Yahweh’s steadfast love and faithfulness find their ultimate fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. This singlehearted love of God in Christ is for you and makes you God’s own beloved, holy and precious child!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-46 Jesus’ Love for God and for You

It is impossible to trick Jesus! The lawyer questioning Jesus wasn’t really concerned about God’s Law or the greatest commandment. He simply wanted to trick and trap Jesus into saying something that would get Him arrested and possibly put to death. Jesus bested the lawyer and avoided his trap by speaking God’s Word of truth. What the lawyer had no intention of doing, Jesus did perfectly. Jesus fulfilled the entire Law of God with His sinless life and perfect obedience to His Heavenly Father. Loving His Father with His whole heart, soul and mind and loving all of mankind, He gave His life as the ransom payment for every sin of every sinner who ever lived. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me more than You loved Yourself. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:137-144 The Word of the Lord Remains Forever

These verses of this magnificent psalm echo the words of Isaiah, “*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever*” (Isaiah 40:8). While the world screams “truth is relative” and vainly attempts to reshape and refashion God’s design for humanity and life, the words and testimonies of God are true and righteous forever. While the world despises and rejects God’s Word, the righteous delight and rejoice in His Word. We rejoice and delight in God’s commandments knowing they are His design for life and therefore righteous and good. We rejoice and delight in God’s Word and promises, promises centered in Christ Jesus that do not change, but remain forever. *Thank You, O Lord, for Your Word that remains forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 The Peace of Christ – The Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist

Jesus sent out the seventy-two to proclaim that the kingdom of God was at hand in His words and mighty deeds. He sent the seventy-two to proclaim peace, His peace. Still today, Jesus sends out men, pastors, to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God and to bestow His peace upon you. What is this peace your pastor speaks and bestows upon you? It is the very peace the angels proclaimed at Jesus’ birth (Lk.2:14), the very peace Jesus pronounced to His disciples after His resurrection (Lk. 24:36). This peace is nothing less than the peace of sins forgiven, peace with God and peace with men through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for sending pastors to proclaim and bestow Your peace. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21 The Unmerited Love of God

The Lord of heaven and earth, God of gods, and Lord of lords (v. 17) “set His heart in love” on Israel (v.15). Yes, the Lord God chose Israel, a sinful people, an ungrateful and rebellious nation, to be His chosen people. No merit or worthiness in Israel produced such singlehearted love of God. Yet the LORD who is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex. 34:6), chose Israel in love to be His people. It is this singlehearted love of God in Christ that calls sinners out of the darkness of death and sin into the marvelous light of Christ to be for Him a holy people (1 Pet. 2:9). *O Lord, as Your chosen in Christ, help me to walk in all Your ways, love and serve You above all things. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17 Abiding and Bearing Fruit in Jesus

“Apart from me you can do nothing” (v. 5). These are bold words! What does Jesus mean by them? Surely people do all kinds of things without Jesus; dumb things, evil things, fruitless things. To do anything fruitful, anything truly good, however, one needs to be connected to the Vine, connected to Jesus. Apart from Jesus there is nothing fruitful, nothing truly good. Apart from Jesus there is no grace, no mercy, no forgiveness, no life, no salvation at all. Praise be to God that Christ Jesus chose you and grafted you into His life, death, and resurrection by virtue of your baptism. Grafted into the “true vine” you receive all that He has to give you. Abiding in Jesus, you bear fruit, His fruit. *Lord Jesus, prune my heart that I may bear fruit that abides. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8 God’s Beloved and Redeemed Children

The promises of God abound in this text! Take your pick! Christ Jesus came to take away your sin, destroy the works of the devil for you, make you pure as He is pure, and raise you up on the last day. All of these promises are yours as God’s beloved and redeemed child in Christ. Do not let the world fool you. Do not let the evil one deceive you. Do not let your sinful nature lead you astray. You belong to God, not to the ways and whims of the world. You are His child and He is your Father. When you fail to remember, when you fail to live like His child, when sin gets the best of you, confess your sin, give it to Jesus and cling to the promises of God. *Thank You, O Lord, for Your love in Christ that cleanses me of my sin and makes me Yours. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 The Lord Upholds My Life

While most of the psalms are written in response to a particular historical event (cf. Psalm 51), they are also composed in such a way that they become “everyman’s psalm.” Psalm 54 is a prayer for rescue and vindication. The psalmist prays for God to deliver him from the attacks of his enemies. The enemies of God, His Gospel in Christ Jesus and His people are manifold. Let this prayer be your prayer when the godless and ruthless attack you. Know that the Lord God is indeed your “helper” and the One who upholds your life (v.4). Remember that Christ Jesus faced all your enemies head on and God vindicated Him on the third day so that you could look in triumph over them. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for defeating all my enemies that I may live in Your victory. Amen.*

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