



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13

Be merciful to / me, O Lord,\*  
 for I cry to You / all day long.  
 For You, Lord, are good, and ready / to forgive,\*  
 and abundant in mercy to all those who call up- / on You.  
 Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;\*  
 for I am poor and / needy.  
 In the day of my trouble I will call up- / on You,\*  
 for You will / answer me.  
 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with / all my heart,\*  
 and I will glorify Your name for- / evermore.  
 For great is Your mer- / cy toward me,\*  
 and You have delivered my soul from the / depths of Hell.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 36:9 KJV  
 “For with thee is the fountain of life: In thy light do we see light.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us,  
 that we may be continually given to all good works: through Jesus Christ,  
 Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**The Will of God is Always Best**

TLH 517, LSB 758  
 Albrecht von Brandenburg



1. The will of God is always best  
 And shall be done forever;  
 And they who trust in Him are blest,  
 He will forsake them never.  
 He helps indeed In time of need,  
 He chastens with forbearing;  
 They who depend On God, their Friend,  
 Shall not be left despairing.

2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,  
 My Hope and life abiding;  
 And to His counsel wise and just,  
 I yield in Him confiding.  
 The very hairs, His Word declares,  
 Upon my head He numbers.  
 By night and day God is my Stay,  
 He never sleeps nor slumbers.

**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: Perseverance in Glorifying God

The lessons this week show us that our Christian life is one of perseverance. If this perseverance were up to us alone, we would be done for. But God be praised, the Lord gives to us His word which sustains us. He is ever with us with His word and promises so that we would not grow faint or weary on the way, so that we would be fed by Him. Pray that God would enlighten and strengthen you this week with His word and promises that you would be encouraged on your pilgrim way of faith.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 Jesus is Unclean

Jesus touched the bier. That little detail might get overlooked in all the commotion of today's reading. But this little detail is not unimportant. Doing so made Jesus, at least according to the Mosaic Law, unclean. It was one thing for the bearers to carry the dead body and its coffin, for this was necessary and they were called to do so. But most certainly a hush and a murmuring ran through the crowd when Jesus touched the bier. This Jesus touches death, becomes "unclean" for this young man, in order that He would take its curse upon His body. And also for us. In His resurrection Jesus is Lord of death. Death could not hold this young man. And it will not hold you either. *Jesus, call me out of my grave on the last day that I may see You face to face! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 Two Petitions

Christians are strangers and pilgrims on the earth and this world is not our home. No more is this felt than in how the proud of the world oppress and persecute those who love Christ and His word. Today's psalm is a prayer in the midst of such persecution for God to do two things. First, that He would deliver us from our oppressors according to His gracious will, and second, that God would keep us in His statutes and precepts. When times get tough, Christians must keep vigilance in studying and hearing God's word lest they become friends of this world and suffer its fate along with it. Oppression must come, but it will not last forever. *Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 God in You?

Dr. Luther preached and taught against what he called enthusiasm, the idea that one's salvation and fellowship with God could be found or made certain by looking inward for God; to hear Him speaking, to our own spirituality or works. Enthusiasm literally means "God within." This is the wrong way to find God. But there is a way in which we are "filled with all the fullness of God" (vs. 19), where God does take residence within us. That happens when we trust His promises (vs. 17). Luther was right, one will not find certainty by looking within but to God's objective, outside-of-us, word. *Lord, give to me Your promises to forgive my sins and love me, that my salvation would rest in You and not in me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 God is not Safe

*I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal,* says the Lord God. What does this mean? Why would the Lord wish to kill, or to wound? Is not the Lord gracious? Does He not desire the life of all men, yes, even that sinners turn from their evil ways and live? Most certainly. And yet there is a wrath which the Lord executes on those who hate the gospel. This means that the Lord God, like the lion Aslan, is not a tame god, a safe god. He is the holy and righteous God, Who graciously saves by His grace, Who delivers His Christians from all their enemies and brings all who trust in Him to Himself. *Rejoice, O ye nations, the Lord will render vengeance on His adversaries and be merciful unto His people. Amen. (see verse 43)*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 A Reminder

Earlier in the gospel, Martha had been too busy with much serving to sit with her sister Mary at Jesus' feet. But now the shoe is on the other foot. Mary is angry at Jesus that He was not there to save her brother and Martha, despite her sadness, makes the good confession regarding her brother Lazarus, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection on the Last Day" (vs. 24). We know too, that Jesus is Lord and Savior, but sometimes like Mary and Martha in their turn, we need reminding, especially when times are difficult. Jesus is Lord of life and death and nothing will separate you from the love of God. Here's your reminder. *Lord Jesus, keep me always close to You, no matter how far I stray. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28 The Last Enemy

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. That is the promise that we have in the resurrection of Jesus. However, for the time being it seems that death reigns. Our loved ones succumb to it, as well as our enemies. And we in our time will go the way of all flesh. "For as in Adam all die" but that is not the last word, for "even so in Christ shall all be made alive." As we daily face the ever present reality of death, we know that by His death and resurrection, Christ has made null and void our own death, and He will raise us again on the last day. And on that day, our last enemy – death – shall finally be no more and we will be with our Lord forever. *Lord, keep me in the faith until my last breath. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36 God's Light

*For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light (vs. 9).* By the Light which Christ gives to us, His word and promises, do we see all things which are good. Why is this? By the gospel preached to us, a good conscience is formed in us by Christ Jesus. Thus we can begin to see the goodness of this world and the next. A bad conscience sees only evil and is ever in fear of judgment. A good conscience, formed by Christ and His forgiveness, can see light and goodness because it has been set free to do so. *Lord, by Your light do I see light. You are the fountain of life. Give me life according to Your word. Amen.*

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