

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 46:7, 2, 4-6, 10

The Lord of hosts is / with us;*
 the God of Jacob is our / refuge.
 Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth / be removed,*
 and though the mountains be carried into the midst / of the sea.
 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the ci- / ty of God,*
 the holy place of the tabernacle of the / Most High.
 God is in the midst of her, she shall / not be moved;*
 God shall help her, just at the / break of dawn.
 The nations raged, the king- / doms were moved;*
 He uttered His voice, the earth / melted.
 Be still, and know that / I am God;*
 I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth!

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 138:7

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same 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 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656
 Martin Luther



1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
 A trusty Shield and Weapon;
 He helps us free from every need
 That hath us now o'ertaken.
 The old evil Foe
 Now means deadly woe;
 Deep guile and great might
 Are his dread arms in fight;
 On Earth is not his equal.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us.
 We tremble not, we fear no ill,
 They shall not overpower us.

This world's prince may still
 Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none,
 He's judged; the deed is done;
 One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
 He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
 And take they our life,
 Goods, fame, child and wife,
 Let these all be gone,
 They yet have nothing won;
 The Kingdom ours remaineth.



“The Reformation of the Church of Christ”

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 October 30-November 5, 2022

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Reformation of the Church of Christ

This week we give thanks to God for the Lutheran Reformation and for the countless reformations, both great and small, that God has granted His people. Indeed, as we search the Scriptures, we discover that Christ is continually working reformation even within our hearts, remaking us into His own Image and Likeness. This means, too, that this fallen world is not our home. We are sure to be misfits here. But we are the Lord's misfits, His saints, and with all the faithful who have gone before us, we shall finally come home to Him.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6, 7 "What Shall We Do?"

Contrary to popular sentiment, Revelation is one of the most comforting books in the Bible. The timeless message? Christ reigns, Christ wins, and we will reign and win with Him. In Revelation 14:6,7 we see an angel proclaiming an eternal gospel to all people. Reconciled to God in Christ, all the nations of the earth are told to "fear God and give Him glory ... and worship Him who made [all things]." Let us not live our days in fear of current events. Let us live our days worshipping the God who has saved us by grace, through faith, and apart from works. *Most merciful God, thank You for restoring us to You in Christ our Savior! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 "Above All Earthly Powers"

Despite the veneer of "civility," this world holds one axiom to be true: "might makes right." Violence is simply the power of death in degree; it's the only real power the kingdoms of the world know. Thus the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and is taken by force. John is beheaded. Jesus is crucified. The apostles, save one, are martyred. But, unlike the kingdoms of the world, the Kingdom of Heaven endures forever. Violence is ultimately powerless, death is ultimately undone. Christ is risen and we shall rise. We will not be bullied. We will not be afraid. *Jesus, teach us to be faithful unto death that we might receive the crown of life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 "Not at Home"

The world hates the poor, along with the poor in spirit. If you're not rich and happy, obviously you're inferior. Those who mourn must cheer-up, the meek must become proud, all human desire will be fulfilled by the next product. The merciful will get crushed. The pure in heart will be corrupted or cast out. The peacemakers will be abused. But our Lord reverses all of this! All that the world despises, He blesses. Misfits, outcasts, and loners belong to Him. This fallen world has never been our home. He has made us for Himself. If the world hated Him, it will hate us too. But take heart, we are His saints. *Lord Jesus, blessed are we, if we are with You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 "Worship Wars, Then and Now"

Hezekiah is one of the few kings who "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." He is remembered chiefly for the reformation that he led, cleansing the Temple of idols and restoring right worship of God. How desperately we need a similar reformation. Drum sets have replaced altars, stage lights and fog machines have replaced candles and crucifixes, vestments befitting the pastoral office have been replaced with skinny jeans, just about anything goes as long as it's entertaining, as long as it doesn't draw our hearts into right and solemn worship of our God. The idols of our culture have come into the Sanctuary. *Lord Jesus, send us reformers. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 "Christ, the Reformer"

Not unlike Hezekiah, our Lord also cleanses the Temple of idolatry and initiates a reformation of right worship. "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade!" Perhaps today it would be the drum sets and electric guitars that would be overturned, and the wannabe rock-stars and trendy-guy pastors who would be driven out with a whip of chords. "Do not make Father's house a house of entertainment!" The defense that worship form is "adiaphora" (something neither commanded nor forbidden) has been abused beyond recognition, allowing our culture's idolatry into our Father's house. *Lord Jesus, raise up reformers. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21 "The Reformation of the Human Being"

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." This incredible statement invites us to see ourselves as objects of reformation – Christ reforming each of us in the profoundest possible way! It is no longer I who live. "I, the sinner," am already dead. "I, who must be justified by works of the law," am already dead. "I, the lawless," and "I, the legalist," have been crucified with Christ. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in Me." He is reforming us, conforming us into His own Image and Likeness. Behold, He is making all things new! *Lord Jesus, keep me from sin and keep me from self-righteousness. I am Yours and You are mine. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138 "Learning to Trust"

"On the day I called, You answered me." It is an amazing thing when God answers our prayers immediately and decisively. We are almost too small of heart to believe it. We wonder if it was coincidence or, perhaps more frequently, we simply move on, barely acknowledging that we witnessed the hand of God. It is also true that our Father loves us too much to answer all our prayers in the ways we think they should go. He has infinitely better things in mind. The cross, here, will be our guide. Ours is a God who works good from evil. Ours it is, then, to learn to trust Him. *I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart! Amen.*

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