

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 **Romans 3:21-22**

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”

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.

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

God's Word is not rightly taught when sinners are turned to their own works, because no one will be justified by works of the Law. God imputes His righteousness to us through the Gospel. He justifies sinners by grace through faith for the sake of Christ Who has fulfilled the Law and died for our sins. The forgiveness of sins that we receive because of the blood of Christ is what the Reformation was about. This doctrine is so precious and comforting that men were willing to lose their lives for it. It is better to die with the Gospel and rejoice with Christ in eternity than to live here in time without it, for nothing else can give the conscience peace.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 Steadfast in God's Word

In His kingdom, God gives sinners His Holy Spirit and saves them for the sake of Christ. God's kingdom comes to us by preaching His Word, but the devil violently rages against it. The devil seeks to rob Christians of God's Word, even threatening Christians with their lives. But Jesus promises, "Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Therefore Christians, believing Jesus has conquered death for us and standing steadfastly in His Word, courageously pray in the face of death and all evil, "If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy." *Gracious Father, strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit, that we may remain faithful to the end and receive the crown of eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: John 15:17-21 Hate and Love

In perfect love the Father gave His Son to atone for the sins of the world. The world does not know the peace brought by the death of Christ. The world hates Christ, the apostles, and all Christians, because the world does not know the Father and His love. But Christians love God and one another. We gladly hear the preaching of the Gospel, because we know the Father and His mercy. We know the Father, because we are called by the Holy Spirit, and have been given faith to believe the Word of Christ. This Word declares us righteous for the sake of Jesus. *Almighty God, strengthen us with the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Your salvation and love one another. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 The Temple of Jesus' Body

The temple is the place of atonement. The works of the Law do not reconcile God and sinners. Nothing men could sell in the Lord's house could cover the guilt of sin. The temple of Jesus' body is both the place of the atonement and the sacrifice which has brought us peace with the Father. Jesus also cleanses our hearts by driving out all else that we might trust in. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit who teaches us that our works do not merit God's forgiveness, but in Him the Father's mercy is already upon us. *Gracious Father, we give You thanks for the sacrifice of Your Son, which has delivered us from sin and death, and we implore You to keep us in Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 The Cleansing Word of God

Ahaz abandoned the Lord and His saving name. The sin of men polluted the temple, but the Word of God cleansed it and made it holy. We must never forget the sanctuary of the church is for hearing the Word of God. The sanctuary is not only set apart for this purpose, but so are our bodies. The Holy Spirit has made our bodies His temple. He has cleansed us in Holy Baptism. Yet we daily sin and so we are daily cleansed and made holy by the right use of God's Word and His holy name. We daily repent, confess our sins, and rejoice in the salvation of God who makes saints out of sinners for the sake of Christ who gave His life as a ransom for many. *Lord God, cleanse our hearts of all sin by Your Word and Spirit that we may be saved and serve You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6, 7 The Eternal Gospel

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He must be feared above all things and worshipped in spirit and in truth. He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. His judgement is good. His eternal gospel delivers us from sin, death, and the devil. He saves us from the constant harassment of our enemies and brings us to the unending joy of heaven. In the midst the tribulation in this world, we can become discouraged, but lift up your eyes and behold Christ, Who has overcome the world. Lift up your hearts and receive the cup of salvation, the very body and blood of our Lord, by which he strengthens us body and soul to life everlasting. *Lord God, strengthen us by Your holy Word and Sacrament and comfort us with Your presence. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed is Christ!

Blessed is Christ forever! He became poor in spirit to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He mourned. He was meek and opened not His mouth and has made peace by the shedding of His innocent blood. Everything that belongs to Christ is given to us in the Gospel and so we are indeed blessed. "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." You shall see God. You shall receive mercy and be called sons of God. Jesus has done all of the work in His law-fulfilling life and pouring out of His life-giving blood on the cross. Blessed are you for yours is the kingdom of heaven. *Blessed Lord, forgive us our sins and fill us with Your righteousness and the peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138 God Graciously Hears Our Prayer

Our sins justly anger God, yet in His love He does not deny our prayer because of them. Instead He holds us in mercy for the sake of Christ, Who has redeemed us not with gold or silver, but with His most holy and precious blood. In the day of trouble, when we call upon His name God answers us by increasing our strength. He preserves our lives and stretches out His hand against our enemies in this life. He defeated sin and death for our sake that we might live with Him forever. We are saved by the one Who has ascended and sits at the right hand of God. His purpose is to work all things together for our good and bring us to see the salvation He won for us. *Lord God, do not deny our prayer because of our sin, but hold us ever in Your mercy to life everlasting. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email office@hopeaurora.org. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Rev. William (Bill) Traphagan. He is the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bennett, IA and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stanwood, IA. He and his wife Stephanie have three children.