

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 86:1-3, 4, 6, 15-16

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
You are my God; save Your servant who / trusts in You!
Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
for I cry to You / all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your / servant,*
for to You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.
Give ear, O Lord, / to my prayer;*
and attend to the voice of my suppli- / cations.
You, O Lord, are a God full of com- / passion,*
oh, turn to me, and have mercy up- / on me!
Give Your strength to Your / servant,*
and save the son of Your / maidservant.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 146:5
"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church, and because she cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve her evermore by Your help and 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
In God, My Faithful God

TLH 526, LSB 745
Sigismund Weingartner



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| <p>1. In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Tho' many woes o'ertake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
His love it is doth send them
And, when 'tis best, will end them.</p> <p>2. My sins assail me sore,
But I despair no more.
I build on Christ, who loves me;
From this Rock nothing moves me.
To Him I all surrender,
To Him, my soul's Defender.</p> | <p>3. If death my portion be,
Then death is gain to me
And Christ my Life forever,
From whom death cannot sever.
Come when it may,
He'll shield me,
To Him I wholly yield me.</p> |
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"The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit"

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 Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit**

Confidence in God does not and cannot originate in us. It is the gift of God given to us by His Spirit through His Word and Sacraments. Likewise, confidence in God is not a matter of wishful thinking or blind optimism, but rests solely on what God has done and continues to do for us in and through our Lord Jesus Christ! Through His Word of promise, the Holy Spirit continues to draw us out of trusting in ourselves and the things of this world and to place our confidence and trust in Him who alone is faithful, who alone is our refuge and strength, our light and salvation. Indeed, none who take refuge in the Lord will be put to shame or be condemned (Psalm 34:22).

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 6:24-34 Do Not Be Anxious**

What are you anxious about? Many things cause worry and anxiety today; viruses, vaccines, mask mandates, school shutdowns, broken relationships, fractured friendships, and much more. And yet our Lord Jesus is very direct, "Do not be anxious about your life." Why? It's very simple. If our Heavenly Father cares for the birds of the air and lilies of the field, will He not also care for you who are much more valuable to Him than these? Our Lord Jesus invites us then in the midst of worry and anxiousness to trust in our Heavenly Father's steadfast love and providential care for us. It is He, after all, Who gave His one and only Son for you, that you may have life now and forever in Him. *O Lord, help me to cast all my anxieties on You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Ps 119:113-120 Our Shelter and Shield**

Until the return of our Lord Jesus, God's people will always be surrounded by the double-minded and evildoers; those who hate God's Word, reject His laws and despise those who love His testimonies. For those who fear and love God, Yahweh alone is their shelter and shield. He will uphold and sustain His own, keeping them safe in the day of trouble. This He has promised to the psalmist and to you. This He has fulfilled in Jesus, the Word of God made flesh for you. Rejoice then and be glad, for the Lord does not lie and those who put their trust in Him will never be put to shame! *Help me, O Lord, to trust and cling to Your Words of life and promise all my days. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Galatians 5:25-6:10 Living and Walking by the Spirit - Holy Cross Day**

Saint Paul writes a little earlier in his letter to the Christians in Galatia, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20-21). Like Paul, you and I were crucified and raised with Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism. He now lives in you and you in Him. Freed from the condemnation and burden of the law. We daily die and rise, live and walk by the Spirit in our baptism, loving God and our neighbor, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. *Lord Jesus, thank You for bearing the cross for my sin that I may freely live and love in You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Deuteronomy 6:4-7 The One True God**

There is only one true God. All others are fakes and pretenders, counterfeits and cheats, idols and devils. The one true God rescued His people from the hand of Pharaoh and Egyptian slavery. This same God has rescued us from the hand of sin and the grip of death in Christ Jesus. Only this God can give us life and everything needed to support this body and life. Though at times we foolishly think our idols can give us what we think we need, these false gods only lead us into slavery and death. The Lord our God, the only the true God, is He who gives real life, true freedom, everlasting joy, peace that surpasses all understanding, and hope and beyond all hope. *Triune God, help me always to look to You alone for forgiveness, life and salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 10:38-42 One Thing Is Necessary**

When we entertain house guests, we enjoy serving them the best we have to offer. Perhaps Martha enjoyed doing the same. When the Lord Himself was her house guest, I imagine she wanted to serve Him the very best she had to offer. Nothing wrong with that! However, where Martha went wrong was not letting the Lord Jesus serve her. He did not come to Mary and Martha's home to be served, but to serve them by giving and teaching them His Words of life and salvation. We make the same mistake when in our living and serving others we do not let Jesus serve us with His Word of life and His gifts of grace, mercy and forgiveness given us in the Divine Service. *Lord Jesus, help me to receive what You have to give me in Your Word; the one thing necessary. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Acts 8:26-39 The Good News of Jesus**

Dr. Luther once said, "Take Christ out of the Scriptures and what will you find in them?" Without the good news of Jesus Christ the Bible is impossible to understand. This good news, however, is at the heart and center of the Scripture's witness. It is this good news that Philip was sent to proclaim to the Ethiopian eunuch. And it is this good news of Jesus that not only illuminated the prophet's words, but also worked faith in the eunuch. As Isaiah prophesied long ago, Jesus is the Lamb of God who went willingly and silently to His slaughter for your sins and those of the whole world. Without this Jesus and His work for you, the Scriptures and life itself are meaningless. *Lord Jesus, thank You for Your good news that saves me and gives me life forever. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 34 The Lord Hears and Delivers**

The fear of the Lord drives out fear of anyone or anything else. Those who fear the Lord lack no good thing! That's the Lord's promise to you and me. Of course, trouble, affliction, and cross can be expected in this life for those who fear the Lord and confess His holy name. David is not naive or blind to the trials of God's people. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous," he writes. And yet, the Lord is always near those who fear Him. He never despises the cries of His saints and will deliver those who take refuge in Him. David knows this firsthand. Thus, he calls us to join him in praising our faithful God who saves and blesses His children. *O Lord, thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness in Christ both to me and all those who fear You. Amen.*