



**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 **Ephesians 3:20-21**

Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**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.

# Around the Word Devotions + the week of September 15-21, 2024

## THEME OF THE WEEK: Perseverance in Glorifying God

Tribulations *are* the Christian's glory. Persistence in tribulation is the glorification of God. The world with all its vaunted pleasures seeks wealth and ease and Americans bow to convenience. We, however, are to persist and not grow weary because in our sufferings we expect and indeed are strengthened by the might of God. Our sins are forgiven, death is robbed of fear and difficulty, convenience is overrated, and so we ascribe all glory, with our bodies and souls, to the One Who showed perfect perseverance in all tribulation: Christ Jesus. In short: *Soli Deo Gloria.*

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 Teach me to see, listen, and hope

Anytime Jesus has compassion, He has this unbreakable habit of answering prayer and teaching (Matt. 9:36ff; Mk. 8-John 6). Here Jesus mercies the grieving widow and instructs her to weep no more. Though we Christians endure trial, cross, and tribulation, the Resurrection and the Life has come into our midst. He has visited us. By faith we have been taught that death is undone for Jesus' sake. Like everyone in this pericope, with holy awe, we give glory to God. For he has overcome and done away with the hopelessness that grief and sorrow can cause apart from a Savior. No more hopeless weeping, only tears of supernal confidence. *Lord, visit and remain with me in Your eternal victory. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 Light shines in the darkness

Sadness and grief are godly responses to our world's departure from and hostility toward God's word. Even in some churches God's Word is held in low regard! Our prayer is to hold unswervingly to the truth of God's Word because it is powerful. The Psalmist prays for God to revive and refresh instruction in the Word, a prayer God delights to answer. The blessing flowing from such a prayer is the renewed witness in the Christian life: the Christian's love of the Word and the boldness of his witness. Things are getting worse, but that is all the better for us: the true purity of the Word will shine brighter in the darkness of lies.

*Lord, cling me to Your Word and so revive my life and witness for the sake of Your inheritance. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 Christian glory is getting over yourself

In our individualistic and meritocratic culture we are expected to own our successes—thus proving our worth. Think of a coach and a high school team winning a championship. The team members work hard, “suffer,” and own the victory, but who is the brains of it all? The coach. St. Paul teaches that his Christian suffering is not for his own glory, though he pastored the Ephesians. His prayer is not even that God would strengthen or deliver him but that the Father through His Spirit would build up Christians for the sake of Christ. St. Stephen prays likewise as the rocks are hurled. Nobody here, divine or human, is doing anything for themselves, even though God is doing all the work—all suffering is meant for the glory of God and the good of the neighbor. *God, help me give glory to You and gladly suffer for the sake of others. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 The Word of God is living and active

These two verses do not seem encouraging in the midst of tribulation. In spiritual distress God's omnipotent justice hardly seems a comfort. Yet, God must kill in order to make alive. Sin must be put to death so you can be resurrected with living grace. Pride, self-reliance, and self-confidence must be mortally wounded in order for us to be helped by the Lord. Thanks be to God, He accomplishes all this purely through His Word. This Word brings about repentance and He richly blesses us with faith in Christ. This healing is strange and yet it still comes with blissful promise: He delivers us by His own hand. *Lord, You bring me to hell and up again, for I die and live with Jesus. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 Look not at my weaknesses

Mary and Martha, like us, have weaknesses despite their faith. One minute a beautiful confession of the resurrection, the next, clueless banter. Stöckhardt says, “Mary and Martha have a quiet murmur within them, ‘Lord, why did you do that?’ Nevertheless, in their deep grief, they cling to their faith in the Son of God, Who came to release men from all woe.” Well said. Despite their grief and word stumbles, Jesus is who He says He is. Our trials and tribulations are up and down, but Jesus always is and always does what He says. He is constant, He is God. In our trials, may we look, not at our performance under duress, for that will only discourage and disappoint, but to Him Who is the glory of God, Who delivers us from all woe. *Lord, You have died that I may live. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28 Death, death everywhere and not a drop to be afraid of  
*Media vita in morte sumus: in the midst of life we are in death.* So go the words of the hymn that lead the casket to the grave. Death is everywhere despite the world's best efforts to sanitize and sterilize and brush it under the rug. The Apostle desires us to be exuberantly reminded that death, despite its pervasiveness, will, in fact be destroyed. For our instruction, St. Paul teaches this must happen in a divinely appointed order: Christ's defeat of death at His resurrection, then our own resurrection, and finally the destruction of everything opposed to His. He purifies and purges death from everywhere by the victory of His life. How utterly glorious! What an encouragement to wait patiently while He accomplishes all this! *Lord Jesus, thanks be to You for defeating death. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist: A Cleaned Conscience

A confirmand chose v.12 as his verse, a gift of wisdom at a young age. St. Matthew, tax collector and Roman collaborator, likely had a tortured conscience by the corruption of his profession. Yet he received and believed the great comfort extended to him in the Lord's call. Hearing Jesus say at dinner, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice” soothed his conscience: God is here to forgive sins to make us well in hearts and minds before God. Whatever trial of a guilty conscience, for however long, was wiped away. God desires to show mercy in Christ Jesus by making Him the sacrifice to make us well. That confirmand, now a man, rejoices daily that he has a physician Who is always willing to heal him. *Lord call me by Your Spirit and make me well. Amen.*

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