

“Humble Love of Brothers in Faith”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:137, 124, 1-2, 5-6

Righteous are / You, O Lord,*
 and upright are Your / judgments.
 Deal with Your servant according to Your / mercy,*
 and teach me Your / statutes.
 Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
 who walk in the law / of the Lord!
 Blessed are those who keep His testi- / monies,*
 who seek Him with the / whole heart!
 Oh, that my ways were / directed*
 to keep Your / statutes!
 Then I would not / be ashamed,*
 when I look into all Your com- / mandments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 56:11

“In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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 Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

TL319
 Johannes Schneising



1. In Thee alone, O Christ, my Lord,
 My hope on earth remaineth;
 I know Thou wilt Thine aid afford,
 Naught else my soul sustaineth.
 No strength of man, no earthly stay
 Can help me in the evil day;
 Thou, only Thou, canst aid supply.
 To Thee I cry;
 On Thee I bid my heart rely.

3. O Lord, in mercy stay my heart
 On faith's most sure foundation
 And to my inmost soul impart
 Thy perfect consolation.
 Fill all my life with love to Thee,
 Toward all men grant me charity;
 And at the last, when comes my end,
 Thy succor send.
 From Satan's wiles my soul defend.

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: Humble Love of Brothers in Faith

The Lord calls us to a humble confidence in His love. If we exalt ourselves, we set ourselves against the Lord, but the lowly have the confidence that the Lord is for us, a strong Deliverer and Helper in time of need. We put our trust in the Lord, and there is nothing to fear: He will lift us up in the light of His Word.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:1-11, No Self-Exaltation Here

We are not in the self-exaltation business. That belongs to the Pharisees, who invited Jesus to dinner to catch Him breaking a Sabbath regulation. They were self-exalters, and despisers of others, using a twisted form of God's Law to lift themselves up on a pedestal. But Jesus comes with healing in His wings, doing good on the Sabbath, rescuing the hurting, giving rest to the weary, binding up the broken heart. He humbles Himself, taking the form of a servant, giving His life as a ransom for many, and He waits to the third day for God to exalt and lift Him up. This Jesus, Your Jesus, is the One who lifts you up out of your sin and death, and seats you at His right hand. We humble ourselves. He exalts us. *God, grant it for Christ's sake. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:129-136 (PE), God's Word is Light in the Darkness

We live in a dark world, what Paul calls a "crooked and perverse generation" (Philippians 2:15), and our sinful flesh loves the darkness more than the light. There is moral darkness: the love of sin. There is mental darkness: despising truth. There is theological darkness: men do not know God. But into this darkness shines the bright light of God's Word: "The entrance of Your words gives light," Psalm 119:130. Good shines forth against evil. Truth shines forth against error. And we see the glory of God in the face of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world; in His light we see light, and joy, and life, and truth (see Psalm 36:9). *O Lord, make Your face shine on Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6, Humble Theological Unity

When it comes to unity of doctrine, in my estimation, we tend toward either Ephesians 4:2 or Ephesians 4:3. Some, in pursuing gentleness, longsuffering, and love, forsake the unity of doctrine. Others, in pursuing the unity of doctrine (of the Spirit), forsake lowliness and love. We are called to both. This is walking worthy of our call, the upward call of Christ Jesus Who has baptized us into His true love and His compassionate doctrine. We love the Lord's truth because God loved the world with the sending of His Son to die. God grant that by His Spirit we would endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit with gentleness and patience. *Lord Jesus, we are Your body. Grant us to rejoice in Your compassion and truth. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Life is Hiding on the Other Side of Death

"The LORD kills and makes alive," which seems like the wrong order. First you live; then you die, right? Life and then death. With the Lord it is reversed: death, then life. Humility, then exaltation. Sorrow, then comfort. Night, then morning. Low, then lifted. Cross, then resurrection. Law, then Gospel. This is the rule: "He brings down to the grave and brings up." He creates everything from nothing, so He first empties us to save us. What comfort this gives to us in the night of affliction and sorrow and guilt. The Daystar is rising, Christ has risen, and the same power that brought Him out of the grave is at work in you.

Lord, teach us to smile at our enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation.

Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:18-28, Where Should We Put the New Wine?

The mind of the flesh cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God. That's like putting new wine in old wineskins. As the wine ferments the hardened cask cracks open. For the good news of the Gospel we need a new heart, a new spirit, a new set of ears to hear what God the Lord will speak. And the Holy Spirit has done this with the Word: opened our ears to hear the marvelous works of God, and opened our minds to rejoice in the promises of our Bridegroom Christ. We are now waiting for Jesus to return for us, and this is a time of fasting and prayer, but the Bridegroom soon will call us, "Come to the wedding feast!" *Lord God, bless us with steadfast faith to the end. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Jude 20-25, A Forever Life

Christians are in the "forever" business. Everyone else is a short-timer, a little-while-er, their days are numbered, but not you. Not the baptized. We know that eternal life waits on the other side of death. We know that there is life after this life. Look "for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21). Jesus, our God and Savior, has glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forever, and that forever power is our sure hope. His forever kingdom is where we are headed. There is much, much more life after this life is over, and Jesus has made the way for us to come to that life through His death. *Lord Jesus Christ, bring us at last to the place You have prepared for us in Your Father's house. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 56: Fear vs. Trust is Fear vs. God

We want to fear so many things. Death. Pain. Poverty. Shame. Loneliness. Violence. And every sort of danger. But the Lord has not authorized it. "Your fear," He says, "belongs to Me." But when we fear the Lord, it turns out nothing else is fearful. "In God I have put my trust; I will not fear." (Psalm 56:4). The fear of the Lord pushes out all other fear. Death is destroyed. Sin is forgiven. Shame is covered. We are strengthened to endure the sufferings of this life which only last for a moment. Perfect love casts out fear. "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:11) *Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. Amen.*

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