



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 **Psalm 36:10**

“Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!”

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 24-30, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: Perseverance in Glorifying God

Death is not natural. It is the wages of sin. The Prophet says that the “soul who sins shall die.” Who can stand in the face of this truth? Who can be face to face with the God who kills? Who can expect to come away living? None, except by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. He raised the widow’s son and Lazarus to prove his Lordship over death and to foreshadow what He would do on Easter in becoming death to death. First, Jesus sheltered us in the shadow of His wings outstretched on Calvary’s Good Friday cross. On the cross, Jesus overcame the world’s sin so Easter’s empty tomb could give you comfort, joy, and hope.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 — Jesus and the Widow of Nain

Death has taken the payment for sins. This time it was the son of a widow. In the midst of the funeral procession, Jesus comes on the scene and shows His authority over death. Jesus has come to conquer death by paying the redemption price our guilt demands, by becoming a perfect sacrifice upon Calvary for you. In His Easter resurrection death is no more. John Donne (1572-1631) once said, “death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.”

Lord, deliver us from death. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 — God Saves His Servant

The word “servant” is used three times in this section of Psalm 119. The faithful servant of God is one who places everything into the hands of God. He realizes that God is everything and they are nothing. The servants are not in control. The servants are incapable of saving themselves. It is time for the Lord to act on behalf of those who are His. The servants will see their salvation in the cross of Christ.

Lord open our eyes to see our salvation. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 Paul Prays to Keep Ephesians in Faith

Paul is in prison. Yet, his faith remains unshaken. He is praying that God would strengthen the people of Ephesus to be just as strong in the faith. We are unable to be strong in the faith by our own power. That is why God sends the Holy Spirit to keep Christ dwelling with us. God keeps us firm in the faith. That is why Paul ends this prayer with a ‘doxology’, which means praise. God is at work within you. He does it all for you.

Lord, keep us firm in the faith. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 — God’s Law and Gospel

In our reading we see that God is alone in His sovereignty. He uses the Word of His Law as a mirror to show us our sinfulness. Crushed, we see how we have sinned against God. The Law has done its job to kill and wound. Only by being killed is one raised to newness of life in salvation by the Gospel. None can deliver from God’s hand — hands which were nailed to the Cross of Calvary. Jesus’ hands feed you His body and blood in the sacrament. No one can snatch you from them.

Lord, keep us in Your hands. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 — Jesus Defeats Death For You

Yesterday we saw that God kills and makes alive. Today, Jesus, Who is fully God and fully man, weeps over death. The wages of sin is death. Death does not have the final word. Jesus, the Lord and giver of life, does. Jesus goes to the tomb and has them remove the stone. They object because they think that Lazarus’ decomposing body will stink. They are shocked when they realize that Lazarus no longer stinks of death but has the sweet smell of resurrected life in Jesus Who would conquer death for all on Easter.

Lord, deliver us from death. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-11 — Receive the Gifts as Little Ones

This morning the disciples were overcome by their temptations of greatness. They all wanted to be Jesus’ favorite. They failed to understand true greatness comes in humbleness — the knowing that one is nothing but a dependent receiver of the mercy of God. Christ Jesus is the Humble One. He became nothing for you. He became sin to redeem you a lost and condemned little one. Woe to those who get in the way of that receiving.

Lord, help us ever to receive Your gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36 — Wickedness of Evil against the Steadfast Love of God

Psalm 36 presents a contrast between the steadfast love of God and the wickedness of mankind. The wicked, arrogant, evil doers will be “thrust down unable to rise.” His inward attitude betrays him and destroys him because the inward eventually becomes the outward. The Lord, however, is good. To Him belongs “steadfast love.” He protects His children against the wickedness of evil by giving “refuge in the shadow of Your wings” — His arms outstretched on the Cross of Calvary.

Lord, protect us from evil. Amen.

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