



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 Job 19:25-27

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.
 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I
 shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

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 February 14-20, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Follow Him

"I believe...in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Yet, seeing death, the world mocks this confession. The devil tempts us to turn away from it. The sinful flesh doubts it. As we can't persevere in this confession by our reason and strength, in whom do we take refuge? The Lord Jesus. As this week's devotion reveals, He is the Good Physician who heals our sinful body. He is the One who wipes away our tears over death. He is the resurrection and the life. Through His crucifixion and resurrection, we persevere in this confession until our eyes behold Him – Our Redeemer! To God alone be the glory!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7: 11-17 "Do Not Weep"

We weep over death. We cry because death robs us of the joy of a loved one's presence. The world tries to dry our eyes by offering us false hope and comfort, but their words leave us feeling empty. The only one who can dry our tears is the One who speaks, "do not weep," to the grieving mother in Nain. In raising her son, Jesus not only dries the mother's eyes, but reveals He's the One sent to deliver us from sin and death. Through His death and resurrection, death's reign has ended. It's why we don't grieve without hope (1 Thess. 4:13). *O Lord, in the face of death, grant me to grieve with hope in the life that You alone give. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 "Our Greatest Treasure"

There are many who reject God and His Word. As a result, Christians suffer at their hands with eyes that long for the Lord's salvation. Yet, in the midst of this suffering, the Lord gives us His Word as a pledge for good. For Christ's sake, He will not leave us to those seeking to oppress us. He will act in fulfillment of His righteous promise of deliverance. And so, we cling to His Word as our greatest treasure. For while fine gold can buy many things, only the Lord's Word brings the promise of life. *O Lord, grant me to always hold Your Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13 "In Need of a Physician"

Tax collectors were wretched sinners. Working for the Roman government, they cheated and stole from the people. So, when Jesus says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Matt. 9:12), Matthew understands what Jesus is saying. Matthew knew he needed a physician who could heal him from the sin that infected his body. So when Jesus says, "follow me," Matthew listens to this Physician's words. It is Jesus – the Good Physician – who brings healing forgiveness and life to bodies infected with sin and on the path to death. He does so through His wounds, for through His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). *O Lord, help me to recognize my need for the Good Physician, Who brings ultimate healing to both body and soul. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39-40 "God Kills and Makes Alive"

There is no God but the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He says, "...I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal..." (Deut. 32:39). At first glance, the order appears to be backward. We live first and then we die. Yet, God does things differently. Through the Law, He first kills us by revealing the depth of our sin and the death we rightly deserve. And then, in the promise of the Gospel, He raises us to newness of life through the forgiveness of sins. So, the Lord's order is right. He first kills and then makes alive, because the life He gives will never end. *O Lord, kill my sinful flesh through the preaching of the Law so that You may bring me to life through Your Gospel. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 "Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life"

In the face of death, Jesus speaks words of life, "Lazarus, come out" (John 11:43). With these words, Jesus calls Lazarus back from the dead and back into the arms of Mary and Martha, revealing He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). However, in order to destroy death, it would require His death. As Lazarus walks away from the grave, Jesus must go to it by way of the cross. And yet, from the grave that could be marked with a sign, "No Way Out," Jesus comes forth from it on the third day. The empty tomb declares that Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). *O Lord, give me faith to believe that You are the resurrection and the life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28 "The Last Enemy is Death"

The world believes death is natural. God says, "no, it's not." Death is a curse (Gen. 3), the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23), and an enemy (1 Cor. 15:26). It was and is against all that God wanted for man. While He created life to live without death, death came through the trespass of one man, Adam. Yet, through the death and resurrection of the God-Man Jesus, death was destroyed. Death's defeat will be fully realized when Christ returns. And with this last enemy destroyed, those in Christ shall be made alive. He will make you full partakers of eternal life in the resurrection from the dead. *O Lord, bring me through suffering and death to the joys of eternal life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36 "In Your Light Do We See Light"

Apart from the light of God's Word (Psalm 119:105), we're not able to see how sinfully corrupt human nature is. We are blind to the truth that our sin merits God's wrath and eternal punishment. As a result, there is no fear of God before our eyes. Yet, into this darkness, God shines the light of His Word. Our eyes see the truth of who we are and the death our sin merits. Yet, through this light we see Jesus. As the true light (John 1:9), He came into the darkness of our sin and death, so that we could be called into His marvelous light. *O Lord, only in the light of Your Word do we see the light of Christ. 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 Pastor Jonathan Jennings. He is the pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ferrin, IL. He is married to Stefanie and has three children: William, Lilian, and Silas.