## PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 9-10, 11

O God, be- / hold our shield,\* and look upon the face of Your a- / nointed. For a day / in Your courts\* is better than a / thousand. How lovely is Your tabernacle, O / Lord of hosts!\* My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts / of the Lord; Blessed are those who dwell / in Your house;\* They will still be / praising You I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God\* than dwell in the tents of / wickedness. The Lord will give grace and / glory;\* no good thing will / He withhold.

## SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Thessalonians 5:18

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

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

### PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Keep, we implore You, O Lord, Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because the frailty of mankind without You cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

# PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK Now Thank We All Our God

TLH 36, LSB 895 Martin Rinckhart

## 

- Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices: Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
- 2. Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given, The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven: The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore! For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.



# Around the Word Devotions + September 10-16, 2023

# "The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit"

### BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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 10-16, 2023

#### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above," writes James (1:17). The word "every" is no exaggeration. Everything we have and are has been given to us by God. which not only includes those things that have to do with this body and life but also those things that have to do with the soul and eternal life. It includes those great gifts which we are quick to acknowledge and those seemingly insignificant gifts which we often overlook. Above all, it includes the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who loved us and gave Himself for us. All that is ours, whatever it may be, is given to us freely by God "without any merit or worthiness in us." For this

reason the Holy Spirit moves us to give thanks in all circumstances, according to the will of God in Christ Jesus for us.

#### SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:11-19 - Saved by Faith Alone

Jesus said to the Samaritan leper, "Your faith has saved you." The Samaritan was saved not because there was anything worthwhile in him, but because he looked in faith to Jesus Christ alone. He first trusted that Christ would show mercy and heal him, and then he returned to Him in praise and thanksgiving. Still today Jesus wills to cleanse souls corrupted by sin. In faith, therefore, let us look not to ourselves but to Christ alone for mercy and praise, and thank His holy Name for all His benefits to us. We thank You. Lord Jesus. for Your mercy and forgiveness. Amen.

40N

SUN

## SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:105-112 (NUN) - The Infinite Blessing of God's Word

It is a blessed thing that the longest psalm (indeed the longest chapter in the Bible) is a mediation and prayer about God's Word, for the blessings that come to us through the Word are beyond our ability to number. This is reflected in the many synonyms that are used in this portion of Psalm 119 for it: word, rules, law, precepts, testimonies, statutes. We can and should spend our entire lives in God's Word, for there the Holy Spirit is continually at work to give us light and life and joy now and forever, even to the end. We thank You, O God, for the gift of Your blessed Word. Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:16-24 - The Work of the Flesh Versus the Work of the Spirit

The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the flesh only works sins like jealousy, rivalries, envy, and other things like these. The end of such things is death. We however belong not to the flesh but to Christ Jesus. He has purchased and won us by His blood; He has made us His own through Holy Baptism. Therefore let us repent of the ingratitude wrought by the flesh, cling to Christ alone in faith for the forgiveness of sins, and walk in new life by the Spirit, in the true thankfulness that is wrought by Him alone. We thank You, Christ Jesus, that You have redeemed us and made us Your own. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 17:13, 14 - Written in the Lamb's Book of Life

How fleeting is the honor given to men on earth! Most people are only remembered for a generation or two after they die. Only the names of a very, very few are recalled centuries after their deaths, and in the end what good is that? They are still dead. But for those who have hoped in the Lord, their names are not written in the earth alone but in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain. Those who turn to Him for healing and salvation are truly healed and saved eternally and will praise His name forevermore. We thank You, O Lord, because You have written our names in the Book of Life for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-15 – Jesus Comes for the Lowly

When Jesus went up to Jerusalem during one of the feasts of the Jews. He went to a place where there were a multitude of invalids-blind, lame, and paralyzed. There He healed a man who had been helpless for almost four decades. What a wonderful reflection of our Lord's compassion! Truly He came to seek and to save the lost! Still today He comes to poor, miserable sinners who cannot save themselves. Still today He heals them by His grace alone. Still today our Lord's presence makes the church a true Bethesda, which means "House of Mercv." We thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your compassion toward us poor sinners.

Amen.

FRI

#### SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-10 - Disciples Follow Their Teacher

"It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher," Jesus said. So the disciples Peter and John showed mercy to a lame man in the name of their Lord and Teacher Jesus Christ, as He did. We too are disciples of the Lord Jesus through Baptism and the Word of God. Thus we are called to show God's love and mercy to others. Jesus wills that we Christians follow His example of compassion toward those who suffer, visiting the sick and caring for the lowly, even as we have first received His love and mercy by grace alone. We thank You, dear Jesus, that we may share Your love with those who are in need. Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 66 - Shout for Joy to God, All the Earth

When Adam fell, creation itself was subjected to futility, in bondage to corruption. But in the fullness of time, God, who made all creatures, became Man to deliver us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Having risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, Christ has promised to return in glory on the Last Day to create new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. For all this, the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy, even as the whole Church sings praises to God for His awesome deeds toward the children of men. We thank You, O God, for the hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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