PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 54:4-5, 1-3, 7

Behold, God is my helper;* the Lord is with those who uphold my life. He will repay my enemies for their evil.* Cut them off in Your truth. Save me, O God, by Your name,* and vindicate me by Your strength. Hear my prayer, O God:* give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen up against me,* they have not set God before them. He has delivered me out of all trouble;* and my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants: and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. 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.

1. One thing’s needful; Lord this treasure Teach me highly to regard: All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard. Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving, No true, lasting happiness ever deriving. The gain of this one thing all loss can requite And teach me in all things to find true delight.

6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful, Turn from all created things Unto Jesus and be heedful Of the blessed joy He brings. For where God and Man both in one are united, With God’s perfect fullness the heart is delighted: There, there is the worthiest lot and the best, My One and my All and my Joy and my Rest.

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:72
“The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)
PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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THREE OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

The master commended the steward’s shrewdness in dealing with both his master’s wealth and with those in the master’s debt (Luke 16). Everything that we have comes from God’s gracious hand. The Law demands that we love our neighbor, which means that He expects us to use these gifts in service to our neighbor. By God’s grace, we have been given the greatest treasure in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has set us free from bondage to unrighteous wealth that leads to death. In this way, He has made earthly wealth holy, that we might use it in service to the proclamation of the Gospel and the needs of our neighbor.

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Chronicles 29:10-13: Riches and Honor

As King, David possessed great riches and honor. These were his through the conquest of his enemies. But Who was it that gave David these things? In this text, David teaches us to confess that everything we have according to the 1st Article of the Creed and the 4th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer comes from God’s hand. Everything in heaven and on earth—the cattle on a thousand hills—belongs to God. Thus, when we pray the 4th Petition, we are not reminding God that we are hungry, but asking that He would teach us to be mindful of His goodness toward us. O God, teach us that our daily bread comes from You, that we might receive it with thanksgiving. Amen.

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 17:23-24: Where Your Treasure Is

We guard and protect that which we treasure from being stolen. We work hard to maintain it and improve it, and perhaps put it on display for all to admire. Jesus warns us here of the great temptation that earthly wealth can be for fallen man. He calls us away from that kind of idolatry by reminding us that the Father has given us His kingdom. All that is God’s is ours! That means that everything in heaven and on earth is ours, because of the Father’s love toward us. We are called then to use the gifts God gives us not for selfish gain, but in order to provide for our neighbor at the proper time, as wise and faithful stewards of God’s kingdom. O God, make us wise stewards of Your gifts, that we may be unencumbered by them on the Last Day. Amen.

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 1:3-14: God’s Word is our Great Heritage

St. Paul reminds us that the Word of God is a great treasure to be passed from one generation to the next, both by pastors, but also by faithful Christian parents and grandparents. This is especially important as we may be called upon to suffer for the confession of Christ’s name. By handing on the heritage of God’s Word, we are handing on the Word of eternal life—the precious Good News that Jesus Christ has abolished death forever. By holding to this sound pattern of words, we guard that deposit entrusted to us before the foundation of the world for ourselves and for generations to come. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 139: You Have Formed Me

Psalm 139 makes the beautiful confession that all life come from the Lord’s hand. He is the one who knits children together in the wombs of their mothers. Children are a precious gift from God, and this intimate relationship God has with His creation knits us to Him. The Psalmist concludes at the end that the Lord’s knowledge of us is what turns us from “any grevious way” to the “way of life.” Amen.