

“Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,\*  
 in the midst of Your / temple.  
 According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the  
 earth;\*  
 Your right hand is full of / righteousness.  
 Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised\*  
 in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.  
 God is in her / palaces;\*  
 He is known as her / refuge.  
 Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,\*  
 because of Your / judgments.  
 For this is God, our God forever and / ever;\*  
 He will be our guide even / unto death.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,  
 for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be  
 competent, equipped for every good work.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such  
 things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without  
 You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus  
 Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold**

TLH 260, LSB 745  
 Martin Luther



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| <p>1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold<br/>             And let Thy pity waken:<br/>             How few are we within Thy Fold,<br/>             Thy saints by men forsaken!<br/>             True faith seems quenched on every hand,<br/>             Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;<br/>             Dark times have us o'ertaken.</p> | <p>By right or might we shall prevail;<br/>             What we determine cannot fail;<br/>             We own no lord and master."</p>  |
| <p>3. May God root out all heresy<br/>             And of false teachers rid us<br/>             Who proudly say: "Now, where is he<br/>             That shall our speech forbid us?"</p>   | <p>5. As silver tried by fire is pure<br/>             From all adulteration,<br/>             So through God's Word shall men endure<br/>             Each trial and temptation.<br/>             Its light beams brighter through the cross,<br/>             And, purified from human dross,<br/>             It shines through every nation.</p> |

**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 August 2-8, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God,” (Mt. 4:4). The message of the prophets and apostles, the whole of Scripture, which culminates in Christ crucified, is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). It is to this Word of God that we are called to conform all doctrine, all teaching, and our whole lives. This Word is the firm foundation upon which the Church is built; all other ground is sinking sand. False prophets, wolves in sheep’s clothing, will come and distort the Message of the Gospel. St. John tells us, “Test the spirits!” (1 John 4:1-6). Their message must be weighed and measured against the sure Word of God as recorded for us in Holy Scripture. The Word of the Lord endures forever. It alone is the sure foundation, on which we build. Only here can salvation be found.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23 Beware the False Prophets

False prophets look like sheep but are in reality wolves. They preach a gospel foreign to the Gospel of grace in Christ Jesus, found only in the Word of God. Those who twist Scripture to fit their whim and contort the Word of God do injustice to it. They use the imagination of their hearts as the rule and norm for their teaching, not the Word of God. Only where Christ crucified is preached in purity of doctrine and in conformity with the message of all the prophets and apostles is there Life. The Word of the Lord endures forever.

*Lord, preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and sustain them in holy living. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH) The Lord Is Our Portion

The Lord shows us His favor. He is gracious to us according to His promise in Christ Jesus, Who has won for us salvation. The Law of God, which would condemn us in our sin, holds no more threats to us who live under Grace! And so, now, we who have died with Christ to sin and been raised to newness of life keep the words of the Lord; we hasten to keep His commandments. Not out of fear, but out of love, knowing that in Christ we have God’s great gift of forgiveness and Life. Praise be to God who is gracious to us according to His Promise!

*Lord, thank You for keeping Your promise of salvation to us. Grant us to live according to Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 The Spirit of Adoption

We who have received the Spirit of adoption as sons in Holy Baptism have become the children of God. As His children, then also His heirs. Our inheritance is the glory of life eternal with Christ, when we shall see our God face to face. Having received such a great inheritance, let us not fall back into the slavery of sin and life according to passions of the flesh, but let us live to God. The Spirit Himself bears witness that we are His dear children, and so God tenderly invites us to pray to Him as our dear Father with all boldness and confidence.

*God our Father, we praise You for our adoption as Your children. Strengthen our faith that we may ask You for all our needs of body and soul, as dear children ask their dear father. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 The Word of the Lord

What is more precious than the Word of the Lord, which endures forever? The one who speaks what is precious, namely the Word of God, and not what is worthless, namely the imagination of the heart, serves as the mouth of God to the world. There will be those who hear His Word, who will turn to the Lord in humble repentance and there will be those who turn against the Lord and His prophet. The Lord promises to save and deliver all those who speak His testimonies and confess His Name.

*O Lord, grant us rightly to speak Your testimonies and confess the Truth of Your precious Word in the world. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 The Sure Foundation

Every wind of doctrine and the rains of false teaching will inundate the Church. This, Jesus promises us. It is why the Church is built on the rock of the Word of God. Where the Word of God serves as the foundation for all teaching and every doctrine, there the winds and rain will not prevail against it. Many teach in the Name of Jesus but they have built their doctrine on sand, not the Word of God. These are the workers of Lawlessness. So, let us hold firm to the Word of God, our rock and foundation, in our doctrine and our lives!

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from Your Son and bring to naught all He has done. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 Testifying to the Gospel of Grace

As the Apostle is about to depart, he knows that wolves will come in and twist the Word of God. Be alert! Paul warns us. Take his own life as an example. He did not shrink declaring the Word of God and teaching in public. He testified of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He counted all, even his own life, as nothing in comparison with testifying to the Gospel of grace in Jesus. The pure and wholesome doctrine of salvation is found only in Scripture and nowhere else. *Heavenly Father, send us Your Holy Spirit, that we may keep Your Word and Your saving doctrine in its purity and love You above all else, even our own lives. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 The Lord Restores our Fortunes

The Word of God will always be contrary to the ways of the world, which is steeped in sin. In sorrow are we confronted with this reality, but this psalm expresses the eternal joys of heaven, the hope to which we look, knowing with full assurance that it will one day be given to us who hold fast to the Word of God. “Though today we sow in sorrow, we shall reap in heavenly joy!” (TLH hymn 409). As the Word of God teaches, sin and death do not have the final word; it is God who restores the fortunes of Zion.

*Lord, grant us the sure hope of salvation in Your saving Word and bring us to life eternal with You. Amen.*

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