



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 68:5-6, 35, 1, 3, 7, 10, 19**

God is in His holy habi- / tation.\*  
 He gives a home to the / desolate.  
 The God of Israel is He who / gives strength\*  
 and power to His / people.  
 Let God arise, Let His enemies be / scattered;\*  
 let those also who hate Him flee be- / fore Him.  
 But let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice be- / fore God;\*  
 yes, let them rejoice ex- / ceedingly.  
 O God, when you went out before Your / people,\*  
 you, O God, provided from Your goodness / for the poor.  
 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with / benefits,\*  
 the God of our sal- / vation!

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Romans 10:17**  
 “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 Almighty and everlasting God, who are always more ready to hear than we to pray and give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee**  
 TLH 329, :SB 607  
 Martin Luther



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,<br/>                 Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.<br/>                 Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,<br/>                 My prayer let come before Thee.<br/>                 If Thou rememberest each misdeed,<br/>                 If each should have its rightful meed,<br/>                 Who may abide Thy presence?</p> <p>2. Thy love and grace alone avail<br/>                 To blot out my transgression;<br/>                 The best and holiest deeds must fail<br/>                 To break sin's dread oppression.<br/>                 Before Thee none can boasting stand,</p> | <p>But all must fear Thy strict demand<br/>                 And live alone by mercy.</p> <p>3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord<br/>                 And not in mine own merit;<br/>                 It rests upon His faithful Word<br/>                 To them of contrite spirit<br/>                 That He is merciful and just;<br/>                 This is my comfort and my trust.<br/>                 His help I wait with patience.</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 23-29, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Humility

The stance of the Christian is always to receive. We receive Jesus' word into our ears and hearts, and there God creates and sustains faith. Through this faith, God counts us righteous for the sake of Jesus. The Christian life therefore is a life of continual reception of the things that God has to give. We do not puff up ourselves with our works of charity and piety and present them to God, but rather we in humility count our works as rubbish even as we do them for love of God and neighbor. Our sufficiency is of Christ alone.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14 – Unbelieving Prayers

The Pharisee went to church to pray to the Lord God. This is a striking thing. Unbelievers don't pray! Or do they? The Pharisee prays in order to indirectly praise his own works before the God who justifies men by faith without works. This is utterly backward. It is not justifying faith to simply know that there is a God who deserves our thanks. For faith rests not in itself or in its works, but in the mercy of God for sinners. That is what justifies! Thus the tax collector, without outward works and full of faith, goes home justified. Rest not in your works or your piety, dear Christian! In Christ, God is full of mercy for you. *God be merciful to me, a sinner! Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-30 – Who is Greatest?

On the night of Jesus' betrayal, the disciples were arguing about who was to be the greatest, the vicar as it were for the soon to be absent Christ. That is the wrong question. Jesus is the greatest. He made the heavens and the earth. He formed the cosmos from nothing. He is without spot or stain on His conscience. He is eternal, filling all things, even time itself. And yet He is the one Who takes up residence in the womb of the virgin, breathes our polluted air and is baptized with our filth and allows Himself to be nailed to a tree. He comes not to be served, but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for many. So His disciples are to not have lordship over one another, but allow themselves to be served by Jesus, as they serve one another. *Lord, help me to serve and be served. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 Hold Fast

There is a dark side to the gospel in that not everyone who hears the gospel will believe it, and not everyone who now believes will continue in the faith. The message of the gospel saves "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you..." This "holding fast" is nothing else than faith in Christ and His promises. Like the Corinthians, we are always in danger of becoming lazy, proud, and false saints who rest more in our works or piety than in the mercy of God. So Paul lays out those things "of first importance" once again before our ears. At the top of the list? "Christ died for our sins..." In humility, this is what faith clings to and nothing else. *Lord Jesus, let me rest in You and hold fast to Your precious promises. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:21-29 – Christian Humility

"You save a humble people" spoke David in his great song of deliverance "but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down." Humility towards God is nothing else but faith, which is glad to not only speak the same things which God speaks in His Word about our sinful condition, but also will receive His gracious promise of forgiveness through Christ. Humility is therefore the posture of the Christian toward God. The haughty, however, are puffed up with their own merits and ideas about God and despise God and His Word. They will be brought down. Hear what the sacred scriptures speak dear Christian, and learn to say "yes and amen" to it! *Lord God, make me humble that I would receive what You give me. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50 – What do you think of Jesus?

The Pharisee refuses to see his own sin. And because of this Jesus is nothing more than a dalliance, a house guest to spar with over points of theology. The woman however is conscious of her sin and seeks out forgiveness from this Jesus, wetting His feet with her tears. The Pharisee and the woman are both sinners in need, but they treat Jesus differently. What do you think of Jesus? Is He your savior from sin, or an occasional guest in your heart and mind? That might depend on just how clearly you see your sin. Learn to acknowledge your sins in full, and seek out the forgiveness which Jesus grants to such faith. *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me a poor sinner and grant me true repentance that I would see You rightly. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:4-18 – Faith Comes from Hearing

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Burn these words into your memory. Crochet them on a pillow. The word of Christ formed the cosmos from nothing and beckoned Lazarus from his tomb. This same word the Lord Himself sends to you to create and sustain faith. He sends preachers to speak His word and to teach you. He puts the word into the mouths of your mother and father and brothers in the faith. Hear it. Read it. Meditate on it. There, the Holy Spirit will testify through the word of the God Who loves you and forgives you, that you would be strengthened in your faith. *Lord Jesus, open Your blessed word to me, that You would speak to me there and perpetually renew my faith. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 147 – The Hope of the Christian

The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love (v. 11). The hope of the Christian is not founded upon our goodness or our piety. Rather, it is founded in the steadfast love of the Lord, the God Who for the sake of Christ forgives sins. That is our hope. It is in light of this hope, this faith, that the Lord Himself delights in you. His steadfast love, His lovingkindness, His mercy are gifted to us sinners and we rejoice! Know that Jesus delights in you, the Father loves you, and the Holy Spirit groans for you. You are loved. You are blessed. *Jesus, let me take pleasure in You and Your promises, as You delight in those who fear You. Amen.*

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