

**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;\*

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 7:24**  
Whoever hears these saying of Mine and does them, I will like him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**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



1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold  
And let Thy pity waken:  
How few are we within Thy Fold,  
Thy saints by men forsaken!  
True faith seems quenched on every hand,  
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;  
Dark times have us o'ertaken.

3. May God root out all heresy  
And of false teachers rid us  
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he

That shall our speech forbid us?  
By right or might we shall prevail;  
What we determine cannot fail:  
We own no lord and master."

5. As silver tried by fire is pure  
From all adulteration,  
So through God's Word shall men endure  
Each trial and temptation.  
Its light beams brighter through the cross,  
And, purified from human dross,  
It shines through every nation.



**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.



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## Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 6-12, 2017

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

The Lord Jesus warns us about false teaching not to be mean, but because He knows that His Word, His truth, His Gospel is our life and salvation (Sunday). The devil is always attacking the Word to destroy us, but the Lord's Word is like a bronze wall that will not fall (Wednesday), and when we trust His Word we, too, will stand (Thursday). So we laugh and rejoice with the confidence of faith (Saturday), knowing the even if we suffer for a short time, we will soon inherit the Kingdom of the glory of God (Tuesday). We, then, rejoice in the treasure of God's Word, this week and always (Monday).

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23, Wolves in Sheep's Clothing**

Jesus knows that false doctrine is the most dangerous thing in the world. There are a lot of things that can kill the body, but false doctrine and false teaching kills the soul. It draws us away from the Law which leads to repentance; and it draws us away from the Gospel which bring faith and life. So Jesus warns the church to beware of false prophets. They are disguised under sheep masks, but you can recognized them my their fruit, their teaching. Do they sound forth the law in its full sternness, the Gospel in its full sweetness? If not, mark and avoid them. *Lord Jesus, give us Your Wise Spirit so that we would recognize Your true teaching and rejoice in it. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:57-64 (HETH), The Greatest Treasure of God's Word**

Psalm 119 is the great "Torah Psalm." Almost each of the 186 verses speaks of the great benefit and value of the Lord's Word. Notice, in the eight verse before us today, how the Lord's mercy is in all creation (v. 64), but that the Lord mercy comes to us through the Word (v. 58). The Word of God is the mean or instrument of God's grace. In the promises of the Scriptures the Lord brings us all His mercy and kindness, the benefit of the death of Jesus on the Cross. The Lord's Word is the delivery system of His mercy. It is no wonder that we rejoice in the gift of His Word. *The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17, The Free and Living Children of God**

Our text is worth reading two or three times. Those who live according to the flesh are racing towards death. But we, the baptized, by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the flesh. We are led by the Spirit, and this means we are the children of God, graciously adopted into His family, given His name, His kingdom, His life, and the glorious inheritance of the resurrection of the body into eternal life. So, in this life, we suffer, but we suffer with Christ, and soon we will be glorified with Him as well. God be praised! *Heavenly Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family, claiming me as Your own, given me Your Holy Spirit, and hearing my cries. Amen.*

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**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21, A Bronze Wall Against the Wicked**

In Jeremiah 15:16 the prophet tells us that he ate the Lord's Word, and it was the joy and rejoicing of his heart. Now the Lord sets Jeremiah to prophecy against the wicked in Jerusalem. The Lord's Word will be the sadness and sorrow of the wicked. They will fight against the preaching, but Jeremiah will be like a wall made of bronze, his preaching will withstand every attack. Dear friend, the same is true today. The preaching of the Lord's Word continues, and all the devil's attempts to silence it are doomed to fail. The Holy Spirit will continue to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His Christians until the great last day. *O Lord, grant that we would hear, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Word, the joy and rejoicing of our hearts. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29, Same House, Different Foundations**

Jesus ends His sermon on the mount with the parable of two houses. One was built on a rock-solid foundation. The other was built on sand. Both looked nice, at least for a time, but when the storms came, the rain fell, and the wind blew, one house stood, and the other fell. So it is, Jesus says, with us. The one who hears the words of Jesus and does them has their house built on the rock; they will endure temptation; they will persevere through trouble. They will stand, and, at last, on the judgment day, they will stand on the unmoving promise of the forgiveness of all sins through the cross of Christ. *O Lord, stand us up on the bedrock of the Gospel and the confidence of Your Word. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38, The Blood of God**

Paul's sermon to the pastors gathered in Miletus is a highlight of the book of Acts, and it contains one of the most wonderful theological truths in all of the Scriptures. Take another look at verse 28, "Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." The blood of God! How can we think of such a thing? God doesn't have blood, but in the incarnation, when Jesus takes upon Himself our full humanity, we can now talk about the blood of God, the suffering of God, even the death of God. And all of this is for us. Jesus partook of flesh and blood so that He could die (see Hebrews 2:14-15), and this bleeding and dying is our hope and our life. *Lord God, thank You for Your blood, shed for my forgiveness, life, and salvation. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126: Sow in Tears, Reap in Joy**

What a Psalm! The Lord had punished the people for their sins by sending them into exile. But now He is bringing them back to Jerusalem, back to the temple mount, back to the altar, back to the shedding of blood in their place, the blood that forgiveness their sins. And the people are laughing and dancing with joy in the Lord's kindness! This is our joy as the Lord calls and gathers us out of the darkness of this sinful world into the light of His church, the glory of His Gospel, the comfort of the blood shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. For a little while we sow with tears, but soon the trumpet will sound, and we will reap eternal life with laughter. *LORD, You have done great things for us. We are glad. Amen.*

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