

“Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts”



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

Behold, God is my / helper;\*  
 the Lord is with those who up- / hold 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 a- / gainst me,\*  
 they have not set God be- / fore them.  
 He has delivered me out of all / trouble;\*  
 and my eye has seen its desire upon my / enemies.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:65**  
 “You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your Word.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 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.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **One Thing's Needful; Lord, This Treasure** TLH 366, LSB 536  
 Johann H. Schroeder



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| <p>1. One thing's needful; Lord this treasure<br/>                 Teach me highly to regard;<br/>                 All else, though it first give pleasure,<br/>                 Is a yoke that presses hard.<br/>                 Beneath it the heart is still fretting and<br/>                 striving,<br/>                 No true, lasting happiness ever deriv-<br/>                 ing.<br/>                 The gain of this one thing all loss can<br/>                 requite<br/>                 And teach me in all things to find true<br/>                 delight.</p> | <p>6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful,<br/>                 Turn from all created things<br/>                 Unto Jesus and be heedful<br/>                 Of the blessed joy He brings.<br/>                 For where God and Man both in one<br/>                 are united,<br/>                 With God's perfect fullness the heart is<br/>                 delighted;<br/>                 There, there is the worthiest lot and<br/>                 the best,<br/>                 My One and my All and my Joy and my<br/>                 Rest.</p> |
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**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 9-15, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

The Lord has given us many things in this life. He lavishes us with wealth, various possessions, family, friends, co-workers, etc. These gifts serve two purposes. First, God gives them so we might serve our neighbor. Second, the Lord desires us to spend our money in support of the Gospel's ministry by which men are saved. Above all, the Lord has given into our possession His most wonderful gift, His Word. When the Holy Spirit uses our tithes and offerings to scatter the Seed of the Word widely, we gather neighbors for ourselves in the resurrection. In all these things, the Lord expects us to be good and faithful stewards of what He gives and to use all things for His glory.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9 – Unrighteous Wealth / Righteous Neighbors

"Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth." It seems so strange of Jesus to say such a thing. After all, we know all too well the warnings concerning the deceitfulness of riches, of worshiping money, of loving money. But we should remember that the Lord uses the things of this world to work for the good of those who love Him. He uses the means of unrighteous wealth to provide for the preaching of the gospel, to ensure His gifts are given, and especially to make sure that more people are brought into His eternal kingdom. He uses our unrighteous wealth to make sure that we will have righteous neighbors in the resurrection. *Lord, grant that I may use what You give to me in the service of Your Word and my neighbor. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:65-72 (TETH) – Affliction is Good for Us

Why would the Lord afflict us? Why should we undergo trials and tribulations? The Psalmist reminds us that it is so that we are turned constantly toward the Lord and His Word. "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes." This is a hard thing for us to pray and to confess, but it's true. The more we are afflicted, the more we cease to rely on ourselves and instead rely on the God who raises the dead. So when we undergo whatever afflictions might come our way, remember that the Lord sends them to strengthen our faith, and to teach us to pray that He would deal with us "according to Your Word." He teaches us to pray that our sins would be forgiven for Christ's sake. And they are. *Lord, help me to endure through affliction. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 – A Faith that Endures

"Lead us not into temptation." So we pray in our Lord's Prayer. But what we might miss is that we aren't praying that the temptation or tribulation would pass from us, but rather that we would be able to endure the temptation. When the battle has finished raging, when the dust settles, we pray to be found standing firm in the Word and Promises of Christ. That's what we pray for and that's what St. Paul reminds us. The Lord doesn't promise to remove our afflictions in this life (that comes at the resurrection). Instead He promises that in the midst of your temptations "you may be able to endure it" because He strengthens you so. *Lord, keep me faithful throughout all temptations. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 – Everything is God's

David's fantastic prayer is in the context of the offerings brought for the building of the Temple. The people brought money, bronze, silver, gold, and everything that was needed to build it. But what David recognizes is that none of those things ever ceased being the Lord's in the first place. "For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours." We should remember this. Everything belongs to God. Everything we have in this life is His, given into our hands so that we would live and serve our neighbor with those gifts. The Gospel is served by them, as it was in the building of the temple. That is the reason they have been created. *Lord, may I always use what is Yours for Your glory. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:32-48 – Serving a Coming Lord

The Master is coming back any moment, at any time, perhaps as you are reading this. We don't know when, but we do know that He is coming. Therefore we live our lives according to that reality, and according to the reality that the Lord has, according to His good pleasure, given us the kingdom already. So we serve our Lord by serving our neighbor, by providing them what they need according to our ability, and by remaining faithful to the Word He's given to which our faith is bound. We willingly give up our earthly possessions for our neighbor's sake, knowing we already have a heavenly possession which is beyond all value. *Lord, help me to live and confess according to the reality of Your return. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:3-14 – Suffering for the Gospel

Suffering is one of the least enjoyable topics of scripture, and yet it is one of the most common. The Lord knows that we will shy away from suffering, that at the slightest hint of discomfort we will instinctively push back in the opposite direction. For the Christian, however, our suffering comes directly from believing and confessing the Gospel. If we were to push that away because of our discomfort, then we would be lost eternally. The Lord reminds us that we can endure our suffering on account of the Gospel because "he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me." He guards for us our faith in the midst of suffering, so that we would attain the crown of immortality. *Lord, comfort me in the midst of all my suffering. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 – The Lord Knows

In the midst of suffering, we can be tempted to think the Lord is unaware of our situation, or at least He doesn't know the details. To fight against this, David reminds us that not only does the Lord know what is going on, He knows more than we can fathom. He knows what we are going to say even before the words hit our tongue. He knows us from the moment of our conception in the womb. He knows every aspect of our lives, and He takes great joy in knowing them. This is a great source of joy and comfort because our Lord knows intimately everything that is going on with us, and He is therefore able to give us what we need every day. *How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Amen.*

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