

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11**

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving- | kindnesses,*
for they are | from of old.
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!
To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
do not remember the sins | of my youth;*
according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.
Good and upright | is the Lord;*
therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.
For Your name's | sake, O Lord,*

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:20**

“Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in You.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
When In the Hour of Utmost Need

TLH 522, LSB 615
Paul Eber



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| <p>1. When in the hour of utmost need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious
thought
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,</p> <p>4. For Thou hast promised graciously
To hear all those who cry to Thee
Through Him whose name alone is
great,
Our Savior and our Advocate.</p> | <p>5. And thus we come, O God, today
And all our woes before Thee lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on every hand.</p> <p>6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,
Absolve us through Thy boundless
grace,
Be with us in our anguish still,
Free us at last from every ill.</p> |
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“He Suffered the Weakness of the Disciples”

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 February 25-March 3, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of the Disciples

We are quick to think that we can cover our own tracks, that we are able to still the turbulence that our sin has caused. We are fools. The rock of our sin has been dropped into the still water, and the ripples are marching out. There's nothing we can do to stop them. There's only one who can still the storm of our sin—Jesus Christ. Out of His great love, He entered our world and suffered our weakness. As we behold Him on the cross, we behold the foolishness of our sinful flesh in thinking we could accomplish our own reconciliation with God. We repent and take refuge in our only hope for eternal salvation—Jesus Christ, our Savior.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 15:21-28** "Send her away."

A Canaanite woman begs for mercy on behalf of her daughter. The incessant pleas from this lowly woman of unchosen heritage were too unnerving for the disciples. Jesus' disciples beg Him to send her away. She won't budge. What's Jesus to do? He suffers the weakness of both His disciples and the persistent woman. He humbles Himself and loves the unlovable. Jesus steps into a seemingly hopeless situation and gives of Himself—providing hope to the hopeless. Though the woman had no "right" to approach the Son of David, her daughter is healed. In the presence of Jesus, the faithless are made faithful and the hopeless are given hope anew. *Lord, grant us faith to approach You with confidence that we may receive the hope of salvation. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 130** "Hope in the Lord!"

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice." We can't help picturing the Canaanite woman from yesterday's reading in these opening words of Psalm 130. Like the Canaanite woman, the psalmist acknowledges that he has nothing to offer to the Lord. Nevertheless, he boldly appeals to the Lord, the fount of forgiveness and redemption. By faith, the psalmist waits and places his hope in the Word of the Lord, where the promises of steadfast love and plentiful redemption are given to those who are crushed by the weight of their iniquities. *Lord, for the sake of Your Son, blot out our iniquities, may His cleansing blood wash us of our iniquity and give us the strength to receive Your steadfast love and the hope of life everlasting. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Thessalonians 4:1-7** God has called us in holiness.

Once Adam and Eve fell into sin, their newly discovered guilt and shame drove them to the bushes. God would not let them be. His love for them was too great. In their impurity, He called them out that they might receive the hope of renewed holiness—salvation through the Seed of Eve. Hanging naked on the cross, Jesus, the promised Seed, took the guilt and shame of Adam, Eve, you, me, and the entire world upon Himself that whoever believes in Him would mercifully be clothed with His holiness. Having received His holiness in baptism, we ought to walk more and more in the way of holiness, setting aside the passions of the flesh. *Lord, help us walk Your servant way and for Jesus' sake forgive us when we stray. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 45:20-25** "A righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides Me."

God oftentimes can seem far off and aloof. During these times we can be tempted to place our hope and trust in other things and so carry about worthless wooden idols. Our Lord speaks the truth and calls us to return from our hopeless wanderings. "There is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior. Turn to Me and be saved." As Jesus suffered and died on the cross, it seemed that God had hopelessly failed His people, yet it was precisely at this time, in this once-and-for-all sacrifice, that we were most intimately served. When the Lord seems or feels far away, know that He has not abandoned you but has died to give you life. *Lord, open my eyes and ears to the truth of Your love for me in Christ Jesus that I may glory in Your salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 9:17-29** "All things are possible for one who believes."

A child is suffering demon possession and Jesus' disciples are unable to help. Jesus, entering the scene, laments their lack of faith and summons the stricken child. Jesus next addresses the doubting father: "All things are possible for one who believes." In hearing the Word, faith is created, and the father responds, "I believe, help my unbelief." The child is delivered from the demon and, by the hand of Jesus, he is lifted up to new life. Jesus entered our world of despair and unbelief that we might be rescued from our hopeless state. In baptism, He reached out to you and rescued you from the clutches of the evil foe, giving you new life. *Lord, we thank You for entering our world of despair to deliver compassion, salvation, and faith through Your Son. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **James 5:13-20** "Pray for one another."

It is difficult to live in a culture that celebrates and promotes self-centeredness and expect to emerge unscathed. This self-centered thinking often creeps in and infects our views of the church. We see our relationship with God as an intensely private affair and forget that His body, the church, is made of many members. The body doesn't function well when its members fail to work together. We aren't made to function in solitaire. The body, of which Christ is the head, thrives when its members work together. "Confess your sins to one another, pray for one another, that you may be healed." *Lord, free me from my self-centeredness, that I may follow Your way sacrifice for the benefit of my brothers and sisters. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 25** "Guard my soul and deliver me."

Our only hope of deliverance is from the one true God. The psalmist, in his weakness, calls out to the One Who can grant strength. "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In You I trust; let me not be put to shame. Lead me in Your truth and teach me. Pardon my guilt for it is great. Turn to me, be gracious to me, forgive all my sins. I take refuge in you." This psalm is a beautiful prayer, raised up to our Redeemer; for indeed this prayer is answered in Christ. He took all of our weakness, insecurity, guilt, and shame upon Himself, on the cross, that we might be redeemed, embraced anew by the Father. *Father, be gracious to us in our weakness, forgive us our sins, for the sake of Your Son, and strengthen our resolve against all evil. Amen.*

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