

“God Manifested in the Power of Jesus over Nature”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 107:28-29, 1, 8, 24-25

They cry out to the Lord in their | trouble,\*  
 and He brings them out of | their distresses.  
 He | calms the storm,\*  
 so that its | waves are still.  
 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for | He is good!\*  
 For His mercy endures for- | ever.  
 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His | goodness,\*  
 and for His wonderful works to the child- | ren of men!  
 They see the works | of the Lord,\*  
 and His wonders | in the deep.  
 For He commands the | stormy wind,\*  
 which lifts up the waves | of the sea.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Isaiah 43:1  
 “I have called you by your name, you are Mine.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 Heavenly Father, as You know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our fallen nature we cannot at any time stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who 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 TLH 383, LSB 557  
**Seek Where Ye May to Find a Way**



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Seek where ye may To find a way<br/>             That leads to your salvation;<br/>             My heart is stilled, On Christ I build,<br/>             He is the one Foundation.<br/>             His Word is sure, His works endure;<br/>             He doth o'erthrow My every foe;<br/>             Through Him I more than conquer.</p> <p>2. Seek whom ye may To be your stay;<br/>             None can redeem his brother.<br/>             All helpers failed, This Man prevailed,<br/>             The God-man, and none other.<br/>             Our Servant-Lord Did help afford;<br/>             We're justified, For He hath died,<br/>             The Guiltless for the guilty.</p> | <p>3. Seek Him alone, Who did atone,<br/>             Who did your souls deliver;<br/>             Yea, seek Him first, All ye who thirst<br/>             For grace that faileth never.<br/>             In every need Seek Him indeed;<br/>             To every heart He will impart<br/>             His blessings without measure.</p> <p>4. My heart's Delight, My Crown most<br/>             bright,<br/>             Thou, Jesus, art forever.<br/>             Nor wealth nor pride Nor aught beside<br/>             Our bond of love shall sever.<br/>             Thou art my Lord; Thy precious Word<br/>             Shall be my guide, Whate'er betide.<br/>             Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust Thee!</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.

**THEME OF THE WEEK: God Manifested in the Power of Jesus over Nature**

Jesus stands above the winds and the waves. He has authority over sickness and death. He is exalted above sin and the devil. Jesus rules, He sits on the throne as the great King of Kings, He is exalted, and all of this is for you. He administers His kingdom for the benefit of His people. What a wonder! He stands alongside us and says, "Do not fear. Do not be afraid. Do not worry. You are Mine, I am yours." What joy to hear His voice, to know His reassurance, and to be made brave by trusting in His promises.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:23-27: Why Are You Fearful?**

Fear is a form of worship. When we fear something, we exalt it, we lift it up, we consider it to be of the greatest importance. This is why we are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Jesus says, "Why fear him who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul?" (Matthew 10:28). The disciples are afraid of the sea, of the waves, of the danger, of the possibility of death. Jesus, waking up from His nap, asks: "Why? Why are you afraid of these things? I am with you. I have authority over the wind and the waves, over sin and death. Do not be afraid," and with a word the trembling hearts and waves are stilled. *O Holy Spirit, give us faith to fear God alone. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 2: God Thinks that is Pretty Funny**

All the great kings and rulers of the world are putting their heads together to fight against the Ten Commandments. All the wise of the world busy themselves plotting how to undo God's ordering of the world. All the great worldly institutions conspire together to subvert right and wrong. God thinks that is pretty funny. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Messiah, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh," (Psalm 2:2-3). The Lord's Word, His Word of Law and Gospel, will endure forever. *Grant us Your Word of kindness, O LORD, so that we might live in Your eternal kingdom. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:8-10: Love Fills Up the Law**

"Love is the fulfillment of the Law." This is important wisdom for our age. The world is busy trying to set love against the commandments. "If you love me, you'll commit adultery with me." "How can you tell me who I can and cannot love?" The world covers sin with love. Paul gives us a profound wisdom to see that love is shaped like (and by) the Ten Commandments. "You shall not murder" is what love looks like when it comes to me and my neighbor's need. "You shall not commit adultery" is what love looks like when it comes to marriage (mine and my neighbor's). And so forth. True love is shaped by God's Commands. *O Lord, thank You for Your great love, that sent Your Son to rescue us and forgive our sins. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:1-3: "You are Mine"**

The Lord say to His people, to us, to you: "I have called you by your name, you are Mine," (Isaiah 43:1). It is difficult to imagine a more comforting promise. We do not belong to sin. We do not belong to death. We do not belong to the devil. We do not belong to darkness. We belong to the LORD, we are His. He created us. He formed us. He redeemed us. He died for us. He baptized us. He adopted us into His family. We are His people; He is our God. He promises, "I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." God be praised! *O LORD God, our Savior, thank You for claiming us as Your own people, Your own children, by Your cross. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33: The Preaching of Sinking Peter**

What an event! Jesus is walking past the disciples, they see Him, He comforts them, and then Peter steps out of the boat and walks to Jesus. When Peter's eyes and heart are fixed on Jesus, he, too, can walk on the water, but when he is distracted with the wind and the waves, when he is afraid, he starts to sink. Sinking Peter preaches to us, "Fix your eyes on Jesus. Do not be afraid of the wind, of the waves, of the troubles of this life. He is salvation, and when Jesus is nearby there is nothing at all to fear." Sinking Peter prays, "Help!" and Jesus helps. Jesus always finds us full of fear, and He always commands us, comforts us: "Fear not. I'm here. There is nothing to be afraid of." *Dear Jesus, replace our fear with faith in Your promises. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 4:16-25: Abraham's Christian Faith**

Abraham believed God. This is his salvation. God promised that he would have a son, that he would birth a nation, that he would have a land, and that through him the promised Seed (see Genesis 3:15), the Messiah, would be born who would bring salvation to the entire world. But look, Abraham is 100 years old, he has no children in spite of his efforts. Everything Abraham could see preached against the promises of God. His body preached death. His history preached death. But God preached life and salvation, and Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness. You have that same faith, and that same salvation. *Heavenly Father, we praise Your name for making us the children of Abraham by faith. Amen. (See Genesis 15:6, Genesis 3:29)*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97: The LORD Reigns**

"The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice," (Psalm 97:1). There are a lot of things that want to reign, to sit on the throne of the universe. There are a lot of false gods, idols, and pretenders to the throne. "Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship [the LORD], all you gods," (97:7). All idol forms shall perish. All false gods will fail and fall. But the LORD, the God of our Salvation, the One who was crucified and buried, He will rule forever and ever. "Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His name," (97:12). He is the God who saves you! *You, LORD, are most high above all the earth, You are exalted far above all gods. Amen. (Psalm 97:9)*

To support the work of these devotions please visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org/support](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org/support)

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com](mailto:bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com). Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to [sanctus.org](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor Bryan Wolfmüller**. He and his wife Keri have four children. They live in Aurora, CO where Bryan is the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church ([www.hope-aurora.org](http://www.hope-aurora.org)).