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 forever.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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 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.

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.

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

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

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, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Seek Where Ye May to Find a Way

Seek where ye may To find a way
That leads to your salvation;
My heart is stilled, On Christ I build,
He is the one Foundation.
His Word is sure, His works endure;
He doth o’erthrow My every foe;
Through Him I more than conquer.

Seek whom ye may To be your stay;
None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed, This Man prevailed,
The God-man, and none other.
Our Servant-Lord Did help afford;
We’re justified, For He hath died,
The Guiltless for the guilty.
Around the Word Devotions + the week of February 3-9, 2019

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 along side 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, Hecsvorts them, and then Peter steps out of the boat and walks to Jesus. When Pe-
ter’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 Je-
sus 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 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 false gods, idols, and pretenders to the throne.” (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)**

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