PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49

The Lord was my support.*
In the day of my ca-em lamity
He brought me out into a broad place;*
He delivered me because He delight-ed in me.
I will love You, O Lord, my strength.*
The Lord is my rock and my fortress.
For You will save the humble people,*
but will bring down haughty looks.
As for God, His way is perfect;*
the word of the Lord is proven:
I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,*
and sing praises to Your name.

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. Amen.

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.

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 Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
THEME OF THE WEEK: The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God

Life and death, love and peace, this week has it all. The Lord warns us and comforts us, He commands us and blesses us. The Lord gives us all we need for this life and for the life to come, and all of it comes from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We are found by God, called into the feast of His love, given His Kingdom and Spirit, and blessed in every way. My the Lord Jesus give us His Spirit so that we would rejoice this week and always in His kindness.

SCIENTIFER: Luke 14:16-24, The Feast Turned to a Disaster

The kingdom of heaven is like a king’s wedding feast! Imagine it, being invited by the king to his castle for a party. But in the parable the invited fools do not come. They make excuses. “I have work to do, more important things to attend to; I won’t come to the feast.” This makes the king angry, and he sends his servants into the streets to find guests to share his bounty and his joy. This, dear friends, is the church, the feast of the great King, the abundance of His Son’s mercy, the overflow of the Spirit’s kindness, the feast of the joy of salvation. We are invited. We are called in. We are rejoicing in the marriage feast of the Son. O Lord, give us the joy and peace of Your kingdom. Amen.

SCIENTIFER: Psalm 119:9-16, Delight, Rejoicing, Meditation in the Lord’s Word

Look at the verbs in this section, especially verses 14-16. “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in Your precepts... I will delight myself in Your statutes.” God’s Word is good, it is our delight, our treasure, our joy; it makes us smile. The Scriptures are full of the Lord’s wisdom and kindness: they drip with His mercy and love. On every page of the Bible we hear an account of the Lord’s bleeding love. We are never commanded to read the Scriptures. The command is better: delight in the Scriptures, rejoice in God’s Word, treasure His statutes. O Lord, we give You thanks for Your life-giving Word. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so the we would rejoice in it. Amen.

SCIENTIFER: 1 John 3:13-18, Love is Passing from Death to Life

“We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren.” Love is life. Because of His great love for us, the Father sent His only begotten Son to die for us. Because of His great love for us, the Son gave His life as the propitiation for our sins. Because of His great love for us, the Holy Spirit comes to us with the promise of kindness and the strength of salvation. The love of God is our life. And this love of God for us spills over into our life of love for our neighbor. We love because He first loved us. We love because His love made us alive. O Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make is alive with Your love. Amen.


In this text we have the first mention of the “cross” in the Gospels. And look, it’s not the cross of Jesus. It’s your cross. “Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple,” Jesus calls us to a life that will include suffering, a life of heartache and sorrow. We walk through a veil of tears. But the cross does not only mean sorrow, it also means forgiveness, love, and salvation. It also delivers from death and hell. The cross means that God is not our enemy, but our friend. So our crosses are a light load. Jesus carries the heavy stuff, the sin and death and sorrow, and we walk with him, bearing the yoke made light by His mercy. Lord Jesus, thank You for carrying my burdens of sin and death, and placing on me the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

SCIENTIFER: Revelation 3:14-22, Riches of God’s Kingdom

The is the last of the seven letters to these churches in Asia, this one to the congregation in Laodicea. In each of these letters Jesus preaches Law and Gospel: He issues warnings and gives promises. To the Laodicea He warns them about pride, thinking they have all they need, and He tells them that their pride has made them lukewarm, tepid, and He is ready to spit them out of His mouth. They think they are rich and have all things. They are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, but Jesus has for them white robes, the treasures of His grace, the enlightenment of His spirit, and all the gifts of His kingdom. Lord Jesus, grant us Your Kingdom and Your righteousness so that we would rejoice in You, our first love. Amen.

SCIENTIFER: Psalm 28, The Lord is My Strength and My Shield

We always want to be our own shield, our own strength. We rely on ourselves, depend on ourselves, trusting ourselves. But this ends in disaster, our own destruction. We cannot save ourselves, but here on the psalm, and on every page of the Bible, the Lord comes to us and says, “I am your Strength. I am your Shield. I am your Savior. I am your Defender. I am your Rescue, your Life, your Salvation. Don’t worry. I’ve got you.” Faith hides us in Christ. By faith, we are safe in His promises. “My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped.” (Psalm 28:7) Oh Lord, You are blessed. You have heard the voice of my supplications. You are my Strength and my Shield, my saving Refuge. Amen.

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