PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5
Vindicate | me, O God,*
and plead my cause against an ungodly | nation:
| oh, deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man!*
| for You are the God | of my strength. (Psalm 43:1–2)
Oh, send out Your light | and Your truth!*
Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your | holy hill.
Then I will go to the al- | tar of God,*
to God my ex- | ceeding joy.
Why are you cast down, | O my soul?*
And why are you disquieted with- | in me?
Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,*
the help of my countenance | and my God.

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 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.

Evening. 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.

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THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

God saves not by giving us power or wealth, but by dying on the cross. This is not for the worthy but for sinners. It’s for you. It’s a scandalous message, yet the hope of all who trust in Him. We find our victory in His defeat, our strength in His weakness, and our courage in His promises. Lent fixes the cross before our eyes, not simply that we would be sad, but that we would be honest about our sin and the death that it yields, and then find an answer in what Christ has done for us. He pours forth the gifts won by His blood in His temple, that we who gather would find forgiveness, life, and salvation.

THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 Crosses Hurt, but they Save.

Christianity is a sword that cuts through families. It isn’t personal. Their real problem isn’t with you, but with God. That doesn’t make it easier. Especially when the 4th Commandment tells us to honor our parents, to raise up our children in faith. We cannot despise them, yet whoever loves these more than God is unworthy. Our hope is not navigating the eggshells and landmines. Hope in God. The Father set Himself against His own Son to redeem sinners, you and your family alike. He bears your cross for you. Be near that cross. Crosses hurt, but they save too.

Lord God, fix our eyes upon Your salvation that we may find comfort for our pains in Your mercy. Amen.

FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 Same Thing Every Week.

Christ crucified for sinners. Every week. Some get tired of it. No signs. Little wisdom. Feels like there should be more. Signs. Wisdom. We imagine how full the church would be if the pastor actually healed the sick. If he wasn’t so awkward. Paul could have given it. He was brilliant, did miracles, yet he only wants to preach Christ for their forgiveness. We do miracles here, just not the signs the world is looking for. We see Jesus. Body and blood truly present to forgive your sins in mercy and love. This is the power and wisdom of God for you. Lord, show Your wisdom in preaching Christ crucified to sinners, who became our redemption that we may boast in You. Amen.

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 God’s Temple is a Place of Shelter for You

The shelter that we’re so desperate for is given to us in God’s temple. In Word and in Sacrament, God grants a life that our enemies cannot take from us. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh are undone in the mercy of the Cross. In the Supper we are concealed under His tent. We find joy in His shelter and presence. We don’t measure God’s absence by the presence of enemies, but by His promises that deliver victory over them. Looking to God’s promises, we wait for the Lord, full of courage. Forsake us not, O God of our salvation. Show us Your steadfast love, that we may find joy in Your salvation. Amen.

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