
My eyes are ever toward the Lord,*
for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me,*
for I am desolate and afflicted.

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed;
the troubles of my heart have enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses!

Look on my affliction and my pain,*
and forgive all my sins.
Keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You.

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.

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 258, LSB 659
Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation
Matthaus Apelles von Lowenstern

1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
Hear and receive Thy Church’s supplication,
Lord God Almighty.

3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor faileth;
Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin assaileth;
Lord, o’er Thy Church nor death nor hell prevaileth;
Grant us Thy peace, Lord:

4. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuaging;
Peace in Thy Church where brothers are engaging;
Peace when the world its busy war is waging;
Calm Thy foes’ raging.

5. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driven;
Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiven;
Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven,
Peace in Thy heaven.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 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: He Suffered the Opposition of Hell

The devil always deceives us, and tempts us to think that he is strong, in charge, ruling this world. The Scriptures tell us something different, that the strong man has been overthrown by the Stronger: that Jesus has won the victory, overcome the devil, forgiven sin and become our Savior. We rejoice that the death and resurrection of Jesus is our rescue from sin, death, and the power of the devil, and that victory is delivered to us by baptism, and every day as we treasure His Word.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 5:1-10: Children of the Light

“You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light.” The devil is the lord of darkness, and his kingdom is filled with the darkness of sin and unbelief, shame and death. You were born into this kingdom of darkness, by nature, children of wrath. But Jesus has changed that; He has redeemed you, rescued you. He came into our hall of death; He drank the cup of God’s wrath; He suffered, and in His death the power of darkness was destroyed. Death and the devil have no claim on you. You belong to Christ. You belong to the light. Lord Jesus, thank You for transferring me from the power of darkness to Your kingdom of light. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-14: Spois of the Devil’s Kingdom

Jesus tells a beautiful and comforting two-verse parable: “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when one stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.” The strong man is the devil. His armor is the fear of death and the condemnation of sin. Jesus is the stronger man, and by His death and resurrection He has disarmed the devil, triumphing over him (Colossians 2:15) and destroying him (Hebrews 2:14). You, dear Christian, are the spoils, rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son of God. Lord Jesus, I give You thanks for Your triumph over the devil for me. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:49-54: The Lord is Our Deliverer

King David must have been some warrior. “Saul has slain his thousands, David his tens of thousands.” That is impressive. The military feats of David are legendary. But David does not trust in his strength and ingenuity; He trusts the Lord. David knows that victory is in the Lord’s hands. Salvation is the Lord’s work. We hear this great humility of faith in his song. “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge: My Savior.” No doubt David, like you and me, was tempted to trust in his strength and wisdom, but he teaches us a better way, the way of faith. Lord, we call on You. You are worthy to be praised. So shall we be saved from our enemies. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:42-51: The Words of Jesus the Antidote to Death

“If anyone keeps My word,” says Jesus, “he will never see death” (John 8:51). That’s good news, especially for us who keep and treasure the Lord’s word. It is stunning to see the lengths to which people will go to avoid death, but here, with profound simplicity and kindness, the Lord gives us the way: “Keep My word.” His Word created the world. His Word creates a new heart in us. His Word forgives our sins. His Word destroys death. His Word sets us free. “If anyone keeps My word,” says Jesus, “he will never see death.” God be praised that life waits for us in Jesus Word. Lord Jesus, bring us through death to life eternal, and keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: John 10:16-18: The Shepherd and His Sheep

Jesus writes to the saints in Ephesus as a “jealous God.” “You have forgotten your first love,” which is to say, they have forgotten Jesus, His mercy, His promises, His gentle kindness that gives us hope and life eternal. The width and length and depth and height of His love is beyond our comprehension. It is a love that passes knowledge, but His love enkindles love in us, a love for Jesus that is filled with faith and hope and joy and peace. Jesus chastises the Ephesians for leaving this first love because Jesus knows there is nothing better for us than His burning, striving, saving love for us. Keep us, O Lord, in our first love. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-14: Spois of the Devil’s Kingdom

“The devil always deceives us, and tempts us to think that he is strong, in charge, ruling this world. The Scriptures tell us something different, that the strong man has been overthrown by the Stronger: that Jesus has won the victory, overcome the devil, forgiven sin and become our Savior. We rejoice that the death and resurrection of Jesus is our rescue from sin, death, and the power of the devil, and that victory is delivered to us by baptism, and every day as we treasure His Word.

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