

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
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 de- | liver me;*
let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 86:15**

You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation** TLH 258, LSB 659
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. | 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. |
| 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 prevai-leth;
Grant us Thy peace, Lord: | 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. |



“He Suffered the Opposition of Hell”

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: 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.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28: Spoils 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.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43: Cast Down in Front of God, Our Exceeding Joy

Psalm 42 and 43 have a refrain, repeated three times. "Why are you cast down, O my soul?" We often, with surprise, find ourselves down and out, sad, oppressed, despondent, disquieted. Why? God is our hope, our life, our joy, our salvation. Our sins are forgiven and our eternal life is secured. Our enemies, sin, death, and the devil, are destroyed. God is with us, hidden in His Word and gifts to keep us and bless us. "I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God" (43:4). Everything the Lord gives us is exceeding and abundant: hope unending, life eternal, and joy that is boundless and overflowing. *O God, my exceeding joy, take away my sadness with Your life and salvation. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 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.*

To support the work of these devotions, please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:1-7: 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: Revelations 2:1-7: Your First Love

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: Psalm 86: Abundant in Mercy and Truth

The devil is always tempting us to think that God is full of anger and wrath, that He stands ready and eager to judge us and send us to hell. Against this temptation we fight, bringing out Psalm 86. "You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth" (v. 15). How about that! How does God want us to know Him? Not as angry and unloving, but full of compassion, abounding in mercy, overflowing with grace. God will be known as our Savior and our Friend, after all, He has carried our sins so that He might forgive us and make a way to life eternal. *There is none like You, O God, nor are there any works like Your works. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal and are brought to you by Worldview Everlasting (www.worldvieweverlasting.com). Visit 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. 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 and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Pastor Bryan Wolflueller. 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).