PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 27:7-9, 11-12

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alleluia.*
Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alleluia.*
The Lord is my light and my salvation;* whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;* of whom shall I be afraid?
Teach me Your way, O Lord, do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,* and such as breathe out violence.

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

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 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.

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 8:37
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Almighty, everlasting God, cause us always to have a devout will toward You and to serve Your majesty with a pure heart: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

1. We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend, That Thou didst into heaven ascend. O blessed Savior, bid us live And strength to soul and body give. Hallelujah!

2. Ascended to His throne on high, Hid from our sight, yet always nigh; He rules and reigns at God’s right hand And has all power at His command. Hallelujah!

3. Through Him we heirs of heaven are made: O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid That we may firmly trust in Thee And through Thee live eternally. Hallelujah!

4. We therefore heartily rejoice And sing His praise with cheerful voice: He captive led captivity, From bitter death He set us free. Hallelujah!

5. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.
O Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit to grant us comfort, hope, and truth, that we may constantly hear Your true Word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 15:26-16:4 – Helper, Comforter, Spirit of Truth

God gives good things to those He loves, but Christians still see great suffering and even martyrdom. God doesn't punish Christians. Christ was punished on the cross for you. It is finished. He is risen. We need help; so He sends the helper, the Spirit of truth, the Comforter. He doesn’t deal in false comfort (that death can destroy), but proclaims and even delivers the victory over death to sinners suffering sin, death, and the power of the devil. Christ is risen! The Spirit it ties us to that victory over death. O Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit to grant us comfort, hope, and truth, that we would not fall away in times of trial. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 93 – Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier

God did not make the world to show us He is stronger than anything created. The fullness of God isn’t revealed in the complicated nature seen by the eye. He revealed Himself to His creation by speaking His decrees. He commanded and ordered creation in a way that not only demands obedience, but builds up that which is called good. He spoke to us by the Word, which was made flesh to dwell among us. Jesus brought holiness to a house corrupted by sin. Even when we rebel against God, the world is not moved. O Lord, grant us to trust in Your decrees, that we would be saved by Your mighty hand. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2:1-13 God is a Ridiculous Preacher

Pentecost brings tongues of fire above preachers' heads, but people assumed they were drunk. Each person heard the sermon in his mother tongue. They understood perfectly. Their words seemed ridiculous. They testified of Jesus, who died and rose to save sinners. They spoke boldly about sin and forgave so recklessly that they offended the religious. God grabbed hold of many languages used for evil and clarified them to speak peace right to the heart of each sinner. Jesus was crucified for you. He is risen. Your sins are forgiven. Your baptism ties you to that forgiveness and that eternal life. O Lord, fill the hearts of preachers with Your Holy Spirit that we may constantly hear Your true Word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 17:20-26 Unity in Hope

That we all be one” It’s a laudable goal. Everyone wants it, I think. Usually we try to achieve it on our own by minimizing our differences. We cast aside doctrine that divides. We paint over our sins that wound. It never actually works. Jesus prays for unity, but then accomplishes it (not by demanding we all get along,) by dying on the cross to unite sinners in forgiveness, life, and salvation. True unity comes from trust in the same promises. God’s word unites even as it saves. Grant to us, dear Father in heaven, true unity rooted in a common faith, that in times of trial, we may all seek shelter together in Your saving might. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8:29-39 – We are More than Conquerors through Him who Loved Us

In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” God is stronger than your problems. He is with us, and has promised we will be victorious over the laundry list of everything killing us. We find this victory not in ourselves, by conquering our enemies, but in Him who died and rose for us. He faced all of those things for us, and let them kill Him so we would live. The victory is in the blood of the Lamb. O Lord, though we struggle against so many enemies, grant us victory through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ezekiel 36:25-27 – Baptism Now Saves You

The Lord told Ezekiel about baptism, which is the source of new life and makes alive stone-dead hearts. The water and the Word accomplish what we cannot of ourselves. The elements work hope. There is no more disappointment in false idols. There is no more chasing sins that only destroy. This water works life. What’s truly amazing is that almost 600 years before John went out in the wilderness to deliver this gift from God, Ezekiel taught us to find comfort in it. Look for God where He has promised to be found. Find God not in your works, but in the water and the Word which accomplishes them. O Lord, grant that by the waters of our baptism, we may ever cling to You and walk in Your ways. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 97 – Evil doesn’t pay

“You who love the Lord, hate evil!” God wants you to live, and evil won’t accomplish it. God preserves the lives of His saints. He delivers them by bringing light to darkness, declaring sinners righteous by the death and resurrection of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our God. Christians hate evil because it crumbles. We love God because He first loved us and saved us when we could not save ourselves. O Lord, teach us to love what is good in Your sight, that we would ever hope in Your salvation and strive to serve our neighbors. Amen.

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