

“Resisting the World Ruled by the Devil”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Apocraphal Esther 13:9–11; (Psalm 119:1, 38–40)

The whole world is / in Your power;*
 O Lord, King Almighty, no one can / gainsay You.
 For You have made / heav'n and earth;*
 You are / Lord of all!
 Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
 who walk in the law / of the Lord!
 Establish Your word to Your / servant,*
 who is devoted to / fearing You.
 Turn away my reproach / which I dread,*
 for Your judg- / ments are good.
 Behold, I long for Your / precepts;*
 revive me in Your / righteousness.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Ephesians 6:13
 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to
 withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Lord, we implore You to keep Your household the Church in continual
 godliness, that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities
 and devoutly given to serve You in good works; through Jesus Christ, Your
 Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one
 God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 261, LSB 655
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
 Curb those who fain by craft and sword
 Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy
 Son
 And set at naught all He hath done.</p> | <p>3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
 Send peace and unity on earth.
 Support us in our final strife
 And lead us out of death to life.</p> |
| <p>2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make
 known,
 For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
 Defend Thy Christendom that we
 May evermore sing praise to Thee.</p> | |

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: Resisting the World Ruled by the Devil

The devil is determined to destroy every good thing of God, and that includes the Lord's Christians, who have the great treasure of God's Word. So the devil will try and distract us to look for signs and wonders. He will try to send the weight of the world's authorities after us. He will fire a thousand fiery darts at us. He will hold death before our faces. He will point out our sins and the apparent weakness of the church. But in the midst of that we are given the powerful sword of the Spirit, God's very Word, spoken from His very mouth. This is given to us as our greatest and only defense against the devil. And it will always prevail over him.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 4:46-54 I – The Miracle of the Word

"The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken." Jesus gives a bit of a rebuke, or warning, at the beginning of the text, that unless the man (and we should see ourselves here too) sees signs and wonders he will not believe. We are always tempted to believe that if we could just see more: more signs, more wonders, more miracles, then we and everyone else would believe. But Jesus teaches us something rather profound here: first we don't need the signs and miracles and wonders if we have the Lord's Word, and second the truly miraculous thing is that the Lord speaks to us, and uses that Word to convert us, sustain us, and call us to eternity. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:161-168 (SIN & SHIN) – Trust Not in Princes

"Princes persecute me without cause." This is the life of the Christian. This is what the devil likes to throw at us constantly. We're bombarded with these sorts of attacks which try and turn us from the truth of God's Word and toward the lies of the devil. That's their point. The devil would have us think that we can have peace with these "Princes" if only we'll back down from the truth. But that's just another lie. Instead, the Psalmist teaches us that in spite of being persecuted by the world and the devil, we will gaze upon God's Word with awe. Those words free us from every bondage to sin, the world, death, and the devil.

In those Words we cannot be harmed. *Heavenly Father, help me to trust not in princes, but in Your Son and His Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-17 – Standing Against the Devil

It's the devils aim to make the Lord's Christians fall. So the Lord clothes us in our baptism with this wonderful armament to protect us: Truth, Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, and the Word of God. This armor not only allows us to resist the schemes and fiery darts of the evil one, but to remain standing, so that after the battle has raged on and on, and the dust finally settles, there will be the Lord's Christians, standing firm, having withstood the devil's onslaught. We stand, not because we're strong in ourselves, but because we have the strength of the Lord's Word, and because the Word incarnate fights on our behalf. *Lord Jesus, who holds the field forever, protect us all our days from the craftiness of the devil. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Hosea 13:14 – Deathless Death

One of the chief attacks the devil uses against humanity is our impending death. He holds it up before our eyes as an inescapable dread, and he tempts us to be so frightened of it, that we even end up running from God. But when Jesus steps on the scene, He ransoms us from death and hell through the payment of His blood. He sleeps in our tomb. He endures the plagues of God's wrath. So now, what once was an ancient foe to be feared is now like an old man without teeth who can't walk. Now, because Christ has made our death a portal to life eternal, when the devil holds it before our eyes, we can embrace it because we know death now leads to life. *Lord of Life, keep me from the fear of death, that I may approach that day with joy. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 4:31-42 – Eating God's Will

Jesus' food is to do the Father's will. And, incredibly, that serves as our food also. We remember when Luther explains the 3rd Petition, we're taught that God's will has to do especially with the breaking of the devil's scheming against us, and the keeping us firm in His Word. This is our food. We live and breathe and have our being in the Lord's providing for us. On the one hand, He provides protection against the devil through the pure teaching of His Word. On the other hand, He forgives us, teaches us, grants and sustains our faith, also through the pure teaching of His Word. We are satisfied, not by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. *Lord, thank You for Your provision of God's Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7-13 – The Church's Treasure

The church in Philadelphia is one of only two churches not rebuked in the beginning of the book. The thing they both have in common is this: they keep God's Word. They cherish it. They treasure it. It is their greatest possession. The Lord here commends the church for keeping His Word, even though they are weak. This brings great comfort to us, especially in this day in which the Lord's Church is so often viewed as weak and powerless. Instead, we know the truth: that we have in God's Word the strongest fortress, and the one thing which leads through the open door to eternal life, and that which will allow us to endure every assault and trial. *Dear Jesus, help me always to abide in and keep Your Word as my greatest treasure. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:1-13 – Not Abandoned

While there is much to rejoice in with this Psalm, perhaps most beautiful comes in verses 7-8. Amidst all of the attacks of the enemy, amidst all of the temptations of the devil, we are reminded that the Lord is not unaware of our afflictions, indeed, He has Himself been afflicted in every way as we have, yet without sin. He's seen and knows personally all the assaults the devil brings our way, and knowing how powerful a foe we face, He resolves not to hand us over to his scheming but to redeem us, setting our feet into the broad place, into the road, into the Way, who is Jesus Himself, with His Word which fights every step against the devil. *Lord, thank You for giving me Your Word, by which I may be kept safe from all the devil's assaults. Amen.*

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