
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.  

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

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.”

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

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.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

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

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.  
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.  
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.  

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.

**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.

**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 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.

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

It’s the devil’s 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.

**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.

**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.