



“Resisting the Unforgiving Flesh”

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 130:4-5, 1-2, 7-8**

If You, Lord, should mark in- / iquities,\*  
 O Lord, / who could stand?  
 But there is forgive- / ness with You,\*  
 that You / may be feared.  
 Out of the depths I have cried to / You, O Lord;\*  
 Lord, / hear my voice!  
 Let Your ears be at- / tentive\*  
 to the voice of my suppli- / cations.  
 O Israel, hope / in the Lord;\*  
 for with the Lord there is / mercy,  
 With Him is abundant re- / demption,\*  
 and He shall redeem Israel from all his in- / iquities.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 31:24**  
 “Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 O God, our Refuge and Strength, the Author of all godliness, be ready, we implore You, to hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; 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 34, LSB 820  
**My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker** Johann Gramann



1. My soul, now bless thy Maker!  
 Let all within me bless His name  
 Who maketh thee partaker  
 Of mercies more than thou dar'st  
 claim.  
 Forget Him not whose meekness  
 Still bears with all thy sin,  
 Who healeth all thy weakness,  
 Renews thy life within;  
 Whose grace and care are endless  
 And saved thee through the past;  
 Who leaves no sufferer friendless,  
 But rights the wronged at last.

4. God's grace alone endureth,  
 And children's children yet shall prove  
 How He with strength assureth  
 The hearts of all that seek His love.  
 In heaven is fixed His dwelling,  
 His rule is over all;  
 Angels, in might excelling,  
 Bright hosts, before Him fall.  
 Praise Him, who ever reigneth,  
 All ye who hear His Word,  
 Nor our poor hymns disdaineth-  
 My soul, oh, bless the Lord!

**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 Unforgiving Flesh**

Anger says that someone deserves punishment for what they have done to you, a loved one, or your property. Anger, if left unchecked, is an uncontrollable blaze that consumes all in its path including the individual who has it. Anger refuses to forgive because forgiveness comes from compassion. Anger has no time for compassion. This denial of forgiveness causes the Holy Spirit to grieve because you act as if you haven't received His forgiveness. It denies that you are part of one, holy, Christian church. Yet God is still faithful. God has steadfast love even when you have anger. He sends the Holy Spirit to proclaim this love to you. You have been forgiven by Christ. In His cross-death and resurrection you are able to do good works, which include curbing your anger and forgiving others.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:23-35 Forging From the Heart**

How sad must life be for the individual who refuses to forgive, holding on to hate and past wrongdoings and sins with an iron grip. The flesh refusing to let go of the little gods the heart has made, acting as one who has never received forgiveness. A sad life indeed. Our God is not this way. His forgiveness knows no bounds. He sent Jesus to shed His blood to forgive you all of your sins. This act on your behalf cost Him dearly — death. He forgives you daily and richly. Only by receiving His forgiveness can we forgive others from our hearts.  
*Lord, forgive us for our inability to forgive. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:169-176 Rejoice in God's Word**

The Psalmist needs God's Word. He admits that he is a sheep that is prone to wander and stray. He struggles against his nature and flesh, which are unforgiving. He longs for salvation. This hasn't changed and it won't. Like the author, we need God's Word. And so we beg for the Word of God alone which blesses us. We need the Word on our lips and our tongues. The Word is a Means of Grace, a means God uses as a Shepherd to call us lost sheep back to Himself.  
*Lord, teach us to love Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:3-11 Completion of Salvation**

I have a list of projects around the house that are partly finished. Some are stuck in the planning stage. Others are partly finished or even mostly done. This is not the case when it comes to our salvation. Our God isn't a partially-done-with-saving God. Jesus uttered on the cross "It is finished!" He meant it. St. Paul emphasizes this when telling the Philippians that God will not abandon them. Our God is a God who finishes what He starts. One day He will bring you to the completion of your salvation in the resurrection of your flesh.  
*Lord, help us remember that You complete all the things that You begin. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:9-11 God Keeps His Covenant and Steadfast Love**

God's Law is all or nothing. There is no middle ground. There is no partial Law-keeping allowed. Hating God is not allowed. In the face of this Law that demands perfection before God and neighbor, we are unfaithful. Our flesh hates. But God is faithful. God alone "keeps His covenant and steadfast love." Out of love, God fulfills every promise that He makes to us sinners. Out of love, God keeps every Law He demands of us. His love for us is unending. There are no limits upon it. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your love. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-20 Great in the Kingdom**

"Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" asks the villainous evil queen in Snow White. The disciples were no different after Transfiguration. "Who is the greatest in the kingdom?" Sinful flesh comparing itself to other flesh and finding them wanting of forgiveness. Where do I stand? We stand in Christ who humbled Himself by taking on flesh and dying to seek and to save the lost, to be our Savior. Declared forgiven, we, like children, look humbly to Him for Salvation and through Him we forgive those who sin against us.  
*Lord, help us rely on Your greatness alone. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:30-32 Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is no vision of a person. He is a person. He speaks with power and authority. He calls us to faith through an external Word proclaimed from outside of us. We are instructed by Paul to not grieve the Holy Spirit. His grief comes from people turning away from Him, denying the salvation He is giving in Jesus Christ. This denial is acted out in "bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander . . . and malice." Sins of the flesh. The Holy Spirit seals, marks, us as one who belongs to Him. We are forgiven and are strengthened to do likewise.  
*Lord, help us to forgive others so as not to grieve the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:14-24 God Shows His Steadfast Love**

The righteous are surrounded by enemies and persecutors. Yet, in the face of this onslaught, the Psalmist finds a reason to rejoice. David, in his flesh, feels as if he is alone. He has God's steadfast love. God hears his cries and acts on his behalf at the proper time and in the proper manner. So David waits for the Lord. At the proper time, Jesus came to die for our sins. The Holy Spirit gives us faith in what Jesus has done. We are made faithful saints who rejoice with David.  
*Lord, help us to rejoice in our salvation. Amen.*