PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Revelation 12:11; Psalm 33:1, 13-15
They overcame him by the blood / of the Lamb*
and by the word of their testi- / mony,
They did not / love their lives*
even / unto death.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you / righteous!*
For praise from the upright is / beautiful.
The Lord looks from / heaven:* He sees all the / sons of men.
From the place of His dwell- / ing He looks*
on all the inhabitants / of the earth;
He fashions their hearts indi- / vidually:*
He considers / all their works.

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; 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.
The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh: these wage war against the faithful. God has promised to conquer sin on the cross and defeat the devil, AND to work through a world broken by our sin, to sustain us until we are brought into the resurrection. Government has never been a perfect thing since the fall. God has still worked through it. We sinners call Jesus Lord. He is Lord of the devil’s too. He’s even Lord to a world set against Him. God isn’t just in control. He has promised to work to the goal of your salvation.

It’s easy to assume every pain I have is evidence of the absence of God and His favor. David doesn’t cite his enemies or the floods as proof there is no such thing as a loving God. He recognizes that his being brought through them is wholly of God’s mercy. God doesn’t will sinners to sin, or find pleasure in the damage our sins have waged on creation. God doesn’t promise a world with no sinners (you included), but promises to bring the faithful through flood, torrent, and enemies alike in spite of our sin.

The world calls evil “good” and good “evil,” but our Lord promises a place and a time where what has been made wrong through sin will be made right again. The world walks as enemies of Christ. They aren’t just content to sin in secret. They glory in their shame. We glory in the cross of Christ.

We live in a besieged land. The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh wage war against us. We take refuge in the Lord. He hides us from the accusations of the devil, clothing us in baptismal robes of Christ’s righteousness. He wage war against us. We take refuge in the Lord. He hides us from the accusations of the devil. Lord God, aid our president and government and lend them wisdom, working through them for the good of all. Amen.

Our Lord stands on noble things. His promises stand on a firm foundation. The world calls evil “good” and good “evil,” but our Lord promises a place and a time where what has been made wrong through sin will be made right again. This kingdom comes not by our building something perfect, but from the noble act of sacrifice where Jesus died for the world to redeem it. In days where fools are called “noble” and scoundrels “honorable,” look to the Lord and know He plans noble things. He has died and is risen to redeem us. "King of Kings, make righteous what sin has wronged through Your noble sacrifice, and call us ever to see and speak the truth in Your mercy. Amen.

God doesn’t care how much money we give. The widow gave very little. So we argue about percentages: “She gave all she had. You should give at least 10%.” Probably. The real issue is our fear. We’re afraid. The widow is not commended for her generosity, but her faith. Our God, Who even allowed her husband to die, will sustain her. Her tithe isn’t a bribe, but a recognition. “This mite belongs to God, and so do I. In wealth or poverty, He will not forsake me.” Heavenly Father, use the gifts You have given us to the glory of Your holy will. Amen.

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