Give peace, O Lord, to those who / wait for You:*  
and let Your prophets be proven / faithful.  
Hear the prayer of Your / servants,*  
according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your / people.  
“Let us go into the house / of the Lord.”  
Pray for the peace of Je- / rusalem:*  
“May they prosper who / love you.  
For the sake of my brethren and com- / panions,*  
I will now say, “Peace be with- / in you.”  
Because of the house of the / Lord our God*  
I will / seek your good.

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

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.

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.
Around the Word Devotions + the week of October 20–26, 2019

THEME OF THE WEEK: Singlehearted Love of God in Christ

The Lord is our helper. He takes us miserable sinners and gives us all we need for this life and the life to come. He redeems and rescues us with might and mercy, and binds us to Christ our vine. David’s Son and Lord is our God and King, and He gives us an overflowing and never-ending joy in His righteous Word. The texts for this week’s meditations are full of the Lord’s gentleness for sinners, His strength to save, and the always surprising miracle of His grace, the forgiveness of our sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34–46: David’s Son and Lord, a Theological Riddle

Psalms 110 is a riddle: How can the Messiah be both David’s son and David’s Lord? Jesus asks this question to the Pharisees gathered to trick Him, and they don’t know how to answer. We do! We know the solution to the riddle. Jesus is David’s son according to His human nature, and He is David’s Lord according to His divine nature. Jesus is “true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary.” The riddle that stumps the Pharisees gives delight to the Christian. We know that Jesus is both God and man, who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven. David’s Son and Lord, thanks be to You for our salvation. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:137–144: Righteousness is Righteous Forever

Verse after verse Psalm 119 draws up back to the treasure of the Lord’s Word. No matter how much trouble we have in this life, how much distress, how many afflictions and temptations surround us, the Lord’s Word is “loved” (140), “true” (142), and our “delight” (143). Notice the word “righteous” in these eight verses. The Lord, who is righteous (137) has His word which is “righteous forever,” (144), and that “righteousness is righteous forever” (142). That’s a lot of righteousness. This, dear friends, is the righteousness that the Lord gives us in the Gospel, the righteousness we have by faith. The Lord’s righteous word declares us righteous, and we will live eternally in this gift. O Lord Jesus, we praise You for Your eternal righteous Word. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4–9: Paul’s Thankful Example

Paul almost always begins with thanksgiving. He knows that the Corinthians Christians are sinners unworthy of the Lord’s kindness. He knows that he is a sinner unworthy of the Lord’s kindness. He knows the world is sinful and undeserving of the Lord’s care. But Paul sees the Lord’s fantastic and overwhelming love for the world, himself, and the saints in Corinth, and he gives thanks. He thanks God for their repentance, their faith, their love, their gifts, and their spiritual riches which the Lord has given them as they wait for the Lord’s return. Paul sees the entire world through the lens of God’s mercy, and so he gives thanks in every circumstance. O Lord, we thank You for the thankful example of Paul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we would join Him in thanksgiving. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12–21: The Lord of Lords is Our Lord

The God of gods and Lord of lords has chosen you. Not because of your greatness or goodness, but because of His grace. He has elected you as the object of His care, the target of His love, the recipient of His redemptive work in Christ. He has set His heart, in love, on you, and sent His Son to die for you. By the death and resurrection of Christ you are heirs of God, and your inheritance is the promised new heaven and earth where righteousness will dwell. “He is your praise. He is your God who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen!” O Lord our God, keep us in Your mercy until we attain the resurrection of our bodies and life everlasting. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1–17: Branches Full of Joy

Jesus is the Vine. We are His branches. He purifies us, gives us life and hope, and fills us with joy. What a text! What a promise! “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.” Why does Jesus give us such tremendous promises? He tells us! “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” Jesus is filling up our joy, to the brim, to overflowing. His joy is the joy of salvation. His joy is the joy of forgiveness of all our sins. His joy is the joy of a life that never ends. “I have called you friends,” Jesus says, and our joy continues to overflow. O Lord Jesus, we delight and joy in being Your branches. Continue to fill us with Your life and joy. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1–8: What an Adoption!

Look at the love! That’s what John is saying to us. Look at the kind of love the Lord has for us that He should call us His own dear children. We were born children of wrath (see Ephesians 2:3), but we’ve been adopted into this most holy Family. In our baptism the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit was placed on us, and we are, in truth, God’s own children. This is stunning, and wonderful! We are His children now, and when He appears “we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is.” We wait for that day with patience and hope. Heavenly Father, we rejoice in Your adopting us as Your own dear children. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54: Many Enemies, One Really Good Friend

Christians have enemies. If we don’t know this the Psalms will never make sense to us. “Strangers have risen against me: ruthless men seek my life” (Psalm 54:3). If we can’t identify our enemies, then we at least remember that the world, the flesh, and the devil are tracking us down to wreck our trust in Christ. Yes, we have enemies, but we also have a friend, a helper greater than our troubles. “Behold, God is my helper.” We announce it to the world. “The Lord is the upholder of my life.” He delivers us from trouble, and we give thanks to Him. O God, save me by Your name and vindicate me by Your Might. Amen.

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