

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 *Psalm 119: 166*
“I hope for your salvation, O Lord, and I do keep your commandments.”

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
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

TLH 261, LSB 655
Martin Luther



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| 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. |
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“Resisting the World Ruled by the Devil”

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

You might think that God's elect would have special perks and advantages in life, kind of like how a good job comes with a company car and quality health care. But your baptism doesn't deliver you from worldly peril and misfortune. God's elect are surrounded by the world that hates them (John 15:18). They are stalked by that old, ravenous lion, the devil (1 Peter 5:8). Their own flesh betrays them with the corrupt desires (Ephesians 4:22). You're not alone. The Victor over death is with you (Matthew 28:20). The promises of God's mercy, made powerful by the blood of Jesus, will not fail you. Take heart. The Lord of hosts will not forsake you.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 4:46-54 i "Hearing is Believing"

The devil tempts Christians to think that 'seeing is believing.' Not only do we hear that axiom frequently, its truth is almost unquestionable. We assume that if God wants to strengthen our faith, then he'll send special signs, miracles, and wonders to confirm His grace. But think about how Jesus confirmed himself to the official in the story. He sent him a sick son to the point of death. He lamented men's desire for signs and wonders, and then gives the official His Word, a promise of God's mercy. The official saw no sign. He didn't witness a wonder. All he had was a promise. That was enough. Jesus' Word did not fail. His son, whom the father couldn't see, was healed as Jesus' spoke. *Grant me faith in Your Word, O Lord, that it may be my comfort. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:161-168 (SIN & SHIN) "David's Faith"

We all have enemies, people who wish us ill. Maybe they give you dirty looks and cold shoulders when you run into them at the grocery store. Maybe they slander you behind your back. Imagine having princes, an entire government with all its power, intent on destroying you. So it was for David. Saul hated him. He and his armies pursued him with murderous intent. Despite the disastrous violence he saw and experienced with his eyes, David said to the Lord, "My heart stands in awe of Your words." This is faith. This is comfort that withstands everything that devil, world, and flesh throw at us. Learn from David. Find your spoil and treasure in God's Word. *Grant me faith to lay up for myself treasures in heaven, O Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-17 "The Humble and Suffering Soldier"

Of all the vocational metaphors describing the Christian life, the soldier is both the most humbling and comforting. Now wait, you're saying. The soldier is proud and glorious, an image of triumph. It's true that your favorite hymns give that impression, but it's not true. The soldier arms himself with armor, not to admire himself in a mirror, but to go into combat's fray. Death, sorrow, and suffering are his companions. The soldier fights, or he dies. Thanks be to God that the soldier described by St. Paul doesn't rely on pretensions of glory but on God's grace. By truth, righteousness, the Gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Holy Spirit bound to Scripture and prayer the Christian fights and conquers. *Grant me strength for spiritual combat. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Hosea 13:14 "Death without Its Sting"

Death's appetite is insatiable. It devours the great and small. It consumes both the rich and the poor. Its ravenous power can even offend conscience by how both the righteous and wicked are treated the same. How can this be fair? It's fair because death had a claim on our bodies and souls. Sin gave death its sting. The power of sin was the law's just and right accusation. You were unrighteous. Death was your sentence. Take heart. The price has been paid, not by you, but by Jesus. His blood has ransomed you from the power of Sheol and redeemed you from death. The Lord showed no mercy for death but gives all His mercy to you. You will live. The plagues are ending. The sting is gone. Christ is risen. *Grant me resurrection hope, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 4:31-42 "Entering into the Labor of Others"

This passage is one of the most beautiful in all of Scripture and it deserves well over a hundred words to do it justice, but we'll content ourselves with the constraints of this brief devotion. Jesus labored for the Samaritan woman's soul. He preached the law and called her to repentance. He offered her the spiritual worship of faith which He planted into the woman's heart by the living water of His Word. Now the labors were paying off. The village of gentiles emptied itself and came to Jesus, just as so many other gentiles would one day leave everything behind to hear the apostles preaching. Jesus labors. We reap the benefits. He is truly "the Savior of the World." *Grant me thankfulness when I benefit from the labors of You and Your saints, O Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7-13 "The Philadelphians"

"You have but little power, and yet you have kept my Word and have not denied my Name." The Lord grant us all to be Christians as steadfast as the saints in the church at Philadelphia. Yes, the Philadelphian saints suffered at the hands of the congregants from Satan's congregation, but both their sufferings and patient endurance that comes from faith were their glory. The Lord speaks such beautiful promises about how they are already blessed as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, as conquerors who have already overcome the fiery trials of the world. For them the door stands open to eternal life, and no one will shut it. *Heavenly Father, teach me to hold fast to the Gospel in all trials and temptations, so that no one may seize my crown. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31 "A Psalm for the Troubled in Spirit"

This is a psalm of prayer for Christians who are troubled by abandonment, sorrow, hatred from enemies, and death. It's especially good to remember and pray this psalm when the fiery trials, which we've been considering this week, come upon you. In times of quiet, contentment, and leisure, it's easy to remember the Lord, His mercy, and His Word. But all our discipline, memories, and comfort flee us as soon as the devil hints at the pains we're about to feel. God's voice is drowned out by all the noise. Thanks be to God for Christian brothers, sisters, and faithful pastors who visit us, not merely with good wishes, but with God's Word when we need it most. *Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord. Amen.*

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