PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13

Be merciful to me, O Lord,* for I cry to You all day long.
For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,* and abundant in mercy to all those who call up on You.
Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me,* for I am poor and needy.
In the day of my trouble I will call up on You,* for You will answer me.
I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,* and I will glorify Your name for evermore.
For great is Your mercy toward me,* and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Hell.

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

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.

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 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: Perseverance in Glorifying God

We live between resurrections. Christ is risen indeed; all flesh groans for that Day to come, when the glory of God will be revealed in us also. We face doubt and scoffing. The Scriptures prophecy great days of apostasy before Christ’s return, besides general unbelief and wickedness. And we see these things every day. Against it, by the Lord’s Word alone, we persevere. We give glory to God and confess the truth: Jesus lives. We will live also.

SCriPTuRE: Luke 7:11-17: Arise

Two crowds meet in the gate: the funeral procession following the widow mourning the death of her son, and Jesus with His disciples. Death and life meet, and the victory remains with life. Jesus touches the casket, says the word “Arise” and the dead man lives. Tear turn to joy, sorrow to wonder, as the Son of Man rescues this man from death and his mother from grief. Jesus comes to give life, and life eternal. He undoes the sin of Adam, and His Words forgive sins, save sinners, and even raise the dead. One day we will hear that voice, “Arise,” and we will stand up out of our graves, rejoicing in the resurrection Jesus gives.

O Lord, rescue me from the fear of death by the forgiveness of my sins.
Amen.

SCriPTuRE: Psalm 19:121-128, It is Time for You to Act, O Lord

David can’t find enough beautiful words to describe the wonder and treasure of God’s Word. (Perhaps that’s why Psalm 119 is the longest chapter of the Bible.) But the Bible is not a treasure in itself; it is a treasure because it is the very words of God. It is His wisdom, His mercy, His truth, His salvation that is revealed in the Scriptures. His Word teaches us to know our sin. His Word promises the forgiveness of sins in the death of the Messiah. His Word teaches us to pray, to ask the Lord to come to us to be with us and bless us, to defend His Church and the preaching of His Word. With joy in His Word, we pray with King David, It is time for You to act, O LORD, for they have regarded Your law as void. Amen.

SCriPTuRE: Ephesians 3:13-21, Paul’s Prayer for the Church’s Open Heart

Paul is always praying for the church. I count 19 times where he reports his prayers, mostly thanksgivings for the Christians and their faith, love, and hope. In this text Paul is praying, asking the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Christians, that Christ would dwell there, and that they would somehow be able to comprehend the incomprehensible width, length, depth, and height of the love of God in Christ. This is a good prayer for us to pray, that we would begin, even in the smallest way, to know the vast and incalculable love that Jesus has for us, and knowing this, be filled with the fulness of God. O Holy Spirit, teach us of Your limitless love, and grant us to rejoice in Your kindness. Amen.

SCriPTuRE: John 11:19-45, Jesus, The Resurrection, The Life

This conversation between Jesus and Martha has comforted Christians for centuries. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. All who believe in Him will live forever. Jesus only needs to speak a word, and the bars of death are broken: the bond of death is loosed. Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave, and He will do the same for you. If Jesus wants to return, each of us will have to breathe our last and die. It is the way of all flesh. We will be dressed in grave clothes and be put in a tomb. We will be mourned. We will stink. But Jesus, who loves us also, and who weeps at our death, and makes us a partaker of life in the resurrection. Jesus, be my Resurrection and my Life. Amen.

SCriPTuRE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28, Death: The Last Enemy

Death is not our friend. Death is not something that we need to “get used to” or ”come to grips with.” Death is the enemy. Death is the result and punishment for our sins. Death stands against God and His kingdom and everything He wills for us. Jesus, by His death and resurrection, destroyed death. He walked out of the tomb, the first-fruits of life. And He will, with His coming again, destroy your death, and make you a partaker of life in the resurrection. Death is the last enemy, and like all the other enemies of God, he will fall, and you will stand, full of the life of God. O Lord Jesus Christ, bring me, my family, my loved ones, and all Your people through death to life eternal. Amen.

SCriPTuRE: Psalm 36: The Fountain of Life

Jesus speaks of the human heart and the human mouth as a fountain of death. We are dying, and the things we do and say bring forth death. But with the Lord is “the fountain of life.” His works and His words bring forth life. In fact, the words of God are so full of life that they make the dead to be raised, and, even more wonderfully, they make sinners to be righteous and holy. O LORD, You give us to drink from the fountain of Your pleasures, for with You is the fountain of life: in Your light we see light. Oh continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Amen.

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