



“The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 9-10, 11**

O God, be / hold our shield,*
 and look upon the face of Your a / nointed.
 For a day / in Your courts*
 is better than a / thousand.
 How lovely is Your tabernacle, O / Lord of hosts!*
 My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts / of the Lord;
 Blessed are those who dwell / in Your house;*
 They will still be / praising You
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God*
 than dwell in the tents of / wickedness.
 The Lord will give grace and / glory;*
 no good thing will / He withhold.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:105**
 “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Keep, we implore You, O Lord, Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because the frailty of mankind without You cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 **Now Thank We All Our God**
 TLH 36, LSB 895
 Martin Rinckhart



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|---|---|
| <p>1. Now thank we all our God
 With heart and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
 Who from our mother's arms
 Hath blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.</p> <p>2. Oh, may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
 With ever joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us;
 And keep us in His grace
 And guide us when perplexed</p> | <p>And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.</p> <p>3. All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,
 The Son, and Him who reigns
 With them in highest heaven:
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore!
 For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.</p> |
|---|---|

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of September 13-19, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Thankfulness Wrought by the Spirit

The Word of the Lord works. St. David teaches his son Solomon the ABC's of the faith in Psalm 119. Everything, for David and for us, is epitomized by the reality that the Word of the Lord does work. David says the Word of the Lord, "is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." In Luke and John Jesus works by driving out the devil and the corruption of Sin while establishing the reign of God on earth among Israel and the creation by His Word. In Acts and Galatians we observe that the work of God continues through preaching. The Apostles are driven by the Holy Spirit to preach Christ. Now we are caught up in God's kingdom and rule by that same Word and Spirit. Thank God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:11-19: Trust Not My Work

The sinner in us says, "If I could only experience healing like the lepers I would have faith and return thanks like the 'one.'" This is just a lie we tell ourselves. In the first place, we deceive ourselves into thinking that somehow the Word of our preacher is different from the Word of Jesus. But, the preaching today drives out demons and undoes death and hell just as it did in and through Jesus—by faith. In the second place, it is a lie to think that our faith depends on our experiences. Our faith depends on God alone. His Work. His Will. His Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Giving thanks, as the leper does, is one beautiful fruit of faith. It is not the ground of faith. Only Jesus is. *O Lord, let me trust in Your Word and not my experience. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:105-112 (NUN): Word and Sight

There is a lot of talking going on these days. But the voices we hear come from nothing more than finite human beings filling our ears with opinions and conjecture. We don't need more human talking. We don't need to put our trust in princes or the words of man. St. David knew this all too well, which is why he instructs his son Solomon in the bedrock of faith. He says, "[The LORD's] Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." All other words are darkness. They have no life in them. The words and promises of men lead to confusion and decay. Only the speaking of God gives light in darkness and life in the midst of death. *O God, speak so that Your servants might listen and live in the Light and Life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:16-22: Spirit and Life

Moralism is what happens when we reduce the Christian faith to our right actions. It is the old idolatry of our works. They are, after all, most likely the most dangerous sins because we are tempted to trust in them more than anything. It looks like St. Paul is urging us toward right action by telling us to, "keep in step with the Spirit." We must get our act together and keep our noses clean. This isn't merely what Paul is proclaiming. The Holy Spirit's job is also to drive Christ into our hearts and souls by the effective Word. So, when Paul urges us to, "keep in step with the Spirit," he is also telling us to go to church, listen, and believe. *O God, grant Your Spirit to drive Christ into my heart and soul so that I might be right in faith, thought, word, and deed. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 17:13-14: God is the Boss

God is the Almighty. He is the boss of everything. One of the good things about being the boss of everything is that you always get what you want. God always gets what He wants. Jeremiah says as much when he proclaims, "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved." If God is in charge of healing and salvation, and He is, then you are not. You have no power to pull yourself into heaven. Yet, one of the worst things done in church is power struggles among members. You have probably been a part of one and you might not even know it. Our expressions of power are usually nothing more than the sinners' last gasps before being done in by the Almighty. He does us in by the Law. He heals and saves us by the Gospel. *O Almighty God, You are the boss, and I am not. Salvation is impossible when I try to earn it. Forgive me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-15: God's good Gift

The main reason Jesus died, according to the Gospel of John, has to do with the lack of faith. Jesus' people did not receive Him as the Great Good Gift of God. They questioned His identity and authority, even when they saw His signs. They would not believe in Him. The difficulty for us is that we endure the same temptations. Our flesh protests that God IS NOT a good gift giver. Given the chance our flesh does the same thing today as they did then. The only cure for this curse of willful unbelief is God's Word, which works repentance and faith. Jesus bore the curse of our sin's guilt, the curse of our unbelief, our shame, our condemnation, our death, so that we might have life by faith in the promise and not by sight. *O God, let me look upon Christ on the cross and trust Him alone. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-10: God isn't Fair

The kingdom of God isn't an egalitarian paradise, because God isn't egalitarian. He simply doesn't give gifts to each equally or "fairly". The sinner in us wants to complain about God and His gift giving. "If only God gave more to me," we think, "I could help more." God gives you Jesus, not special powers. In Jesus, God shows no partiality. In faith, then, we see the work of the Apostles as a great gift among men. In faith, we also see the work of teaching our own children to pray as a great gift. In faith, we are rich so that we can see all things ordered by faith. Who cares if we cannot raise the dead or heal the lame with a word? God is God, and His gifts of grace and salvation are beyond whatever our flesh can imagine or desire. Thank God for that. *Dearest Father, help me to love the gifts You have given me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 66: Jesus + Nothing = Everything

The old sinner in each of us doesn't want to see our God as a good gift giver. We don't want to see the good He lavishes upon us. We cherry-pick the bad and begin to believe this is the true nature and character of God. We start believing God isn't a good gift giver and we can do better. Psalm 66 gives us a corrective. God does awesome deeds all over the earth and to all peoples, but especially for His Elect. He preserves them. He keeps them. Though He gives us sorrows, He brings down so that He might raise up. He gives us sorrow and then fills us with Joy. He does this because He loves us in Christ. In the end His Will is to bring us to heaven. Maybe we gain riches in this life, maybe not. He only promises us Jesus. *Give me Jesus. He's Enough. Amen.*

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