

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 86:1-3, 4, 6, 15-16**

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
You are my God; save Your servant who / trusts in You!
Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
for I cry to You / all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your / servant,*
for to You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.
Give ear, O Lord, / to my prayer;*
and attend to the voice of my suppli- / cations.
You, O Lord, are a God full of com- / passion,*
oh, turn to me, and have mercy up- / on me!
Give Your strength to Your / servant,*
and save the son of Your / maidservant.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 34:19**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church, and because she cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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
In God, My Faithful God

TLH 526, LSB 745
Sigismund Weingartner



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| <p>1. In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Tho' many woes o'ertake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
His love it is doth send them
And, when 'tis best, will end them.</p> | <p>3. If death my portion be,
Then death is gain to me
And Christ my Life forever,
From whom death cannot sever.
Come when it may,
He'll shield me,
To Him I wholly yield me.</p> | <p>2. My sins assail me sore,
But I despair no more.
I build on Christ, who loves me;
From this Rock nothing moves me.
To Him I all surrender,
To Him, my soul's Defender.</p> |
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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 24-30, 2017

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit

We pray for God's kingdom to come and for His will to be done. That is, we pray that His Word is taught in truth and purity, that He hinders the plans of any and all who would subdue it, and that we might, in faith, believe this Word proclaimed and live holy lives in time and in eternity. All of this is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is He who establishes in us faith in a God who for the sake of Christ, has promised that we are His children and that He will never forsake us. Our confidence is in the Lord; not in our own works, deeds, abilities, or actions, but only in the forgiveness of sins won on the cross and given through the Word. It is God for us. He is faithful even when we are faithless. What greater confidence can there ever be?

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24-34—Do Not Be Anxious

"Do not be anxious;" simple words that are impossible to follow. We know that it is the Lord alone that we should fear. Our heavenly Father has promised to give us all things needed to support this body and life. We know that His goodness and mercy endure forever. Still we doubt, worry, and fret about money, school, work, retirement, health and everything else under the sun. We need not worry. Our Father in Heaven will provide for us. But still we worry, showing us that we are far from the perfect, Law-fulfilling person that we are called to be. And in that worry and doubt our Father is faithful, our Savior pleads for us. And the Holy Spirit speaks these words into our ears to strengthen our faith so that we may have confidence in the promises of God. *Holy Spirit, may we trust in Your promises and have no fear. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:113-120—My Hiding Place

There will always be double-minded, self-righteous, evil-doers in this world. And they will constantly speak their own gospel and not the Gospel of the cross. They will set up themselves as holy and righteous through the thoughts of their own minds and the work of their own hands. Their constant desire is that God's Word is never taught in truth and purity and that when it is, you are never there to receive it. Against all of this (which also includes our own sinful flesh) our Lord provides a hiding place and promises to be our shield against such false doctrine. His Word will be proclaimed: Law and Gospel. And we pray that it is proclaimed in purity among us as well that we might find a place of protection against all that is evil. *Holy Spirit, hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for Your statutes continually! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:25-6:10—Walking in the Spirit

To walk in the Spirit means to receive all of the promises of God for the sake of Christ alone in faith. Once this faith is given and these promises grasped we can do nothing else but serve our neighbor. We bear our brother's burdens, not just the easy stuff that takes no effort, but that which is an actual burden to us, and we do so for the good of our neighbor. We restore our fallen sister in gentleness, through forgiveness, just as we have been restored a million times. We do not grow weary of doing good works, for they are hardly even seen as such in our eyes any longer. They are the joyful service of our neighbor wrought by the Holy Spirit as He makes known to us that our sins are forgiven in Christ and therefore, he who has been forgiven much loves much. *Holy Spirit, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4-7—The Greatest Commandment

Jesus speaks of these words of Deuteronomy 6 when He is asked for the greatest Commandment. It sums up the First Table of the Law (Commandments 1-3) perfectly. What more is to be done than to love the Lord with all that we have? We teach this to our children and ponder with our spouses and meditate on in the quiet of the night. For the Christian there is nothing we would rather do than keep this Commandment. For the sinner, there is nothing in the world more impossible to do than keep this Commandment. Stuck between a rock and a hard place, we turn to the Lord our God. We turn to the One who is faithful when we aren't and who takes us into the Promised Land through the merits of Christ alone. *Holy Spirit, may the Word of God forever be on our heart to accuse us and then forgive us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42—At The Feet of Jesus

Martha isn't all that bad. To prepare a meal for a guest is a good thing; to prepare a meal for the Lord is infinitely better. But Jesus doesn't want our service. Our service is meant for our neighbor. Our neighbors are the ones that need our service. They are the ones who require it for their good and their benefit. They are the ones whom God has placed in front of us to do these very things. But not Jesus. We don't serve Him, He serves us. And this will never be taken away from us. He invites us to cast away all of that work and service, that climbing to heaven and making God happy stuff, and instead sit and listen to the fact that Jesus is the Servant of all, of you and of me. Jesus came to serve not to be served; and He still does so today in Word, water, bread, and wine. Jesus gives the gifts of service; we only receive. *Holy Spirit, may we always choose the good portion. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 12:7-12—The Accuser Silenced (St. Michael and All Angels)

Satan can do nothing. His accusations are no longer heard as true and valid in the courtroom of heaven. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father and speaks on our behalf with the holes in His hands and feet as the proof that the devil's words are false. Yes, Satan still attempts to accuse us; he can do no other. And he brings these accusations before our own eyes telling us that we are guilty and deserve nothing but the punishments of God. And yet there is a voice that speaks louder than his. Jesus says that you are forgiven. He declares that you are holy and righteous and good because He has given you His robe of righteousness and nailed all of your sins through His hands on the cross. It is finished! And there is nothing that Satan can say or do to change that. *Gracious Father, forgive us for the sake of Christ and close Your ears to Satan's accusations. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34—True Christian Humility

The only way to truly bless the Lord (v.1) is to truly recognize that we are sinful, that He alone is good, and that we are only made perfect for the sake of Christ. This is true Christian humility: acknowledging the free gift of salvation in Christ to poor miserable sinners. Anything else is self-justification and therefore is a curse against God and His salvation for us. To seek the Lord is to know that, as Luther says, "Our ugliness is God's beauty, our blushing is God's glory, our shame is His dignity, our sin is the excellence of His grace" (AE 10:162). And it is only through this true humility, granted by God through faith, that the Holy Spirit can then enliven us to, "Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." It is all and only the work of God in us for the sake of Christ. *Holy Spirit, be near to the brokenhearted and save the crushed in spirit. Amen.*

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