

**5** 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 mer- / cy toward me,\*  
and You have delivered my soul from the / depths of Hell.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 7:15**

“Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has arisen among us!’ and ‘God has visited his people!’”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may be continually given to all good works: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**The Will of God is Always Best**

TLH 517, LSB 758  
Albrecht von Brandenburg



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| <p>1. The will of God is always best<br/>And shall be done forever;<br/>And they who trust in Him are blest,<br/>He will forsake them never.<br/>He helps indeed In time of need,<br/>He chastens with forbearing;<br/>They who depend On God, their Friend,<br/>Shall not be left despairing.</p> | <p>2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,<br/>My Hope and life abiding;<br/>And to His counsel wise and just,<br/>I yield in Him confiding.<br/>The very hairs, His Word declares,<br/>Upon my head He numbers.<br/>By night and day God is my Stay,<br/>He never sleeps nor slumbers.</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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **Perseverance in Glorifying God**

*In the midst of earthly life snares of death surround us; who will help us in the strife lest the foe confound us?* On earth there is no help. Our lives strive against sickness, weakness, and death. The devil torments our spirits, attacks our bodies, and tempts us with despair. We don't have the strength and perseverance to win this fight. *Where shall we for refuge go, where for grace to bless us? To Thee, Lord Jesus, only! Thy precious blood was shed to win full atonement for our sin.* The procession of death coming out of Nain was intercepted and stopped by the Lord of Life. Because of His redemption and resurrection, we persevere in glorifying God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:11-17 "Do Not Weep"**

Tears are good. Jesus sanctified them when He wept for Lazarus (John 11:35). St. Paul also tells Christians to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). We cry because death robs us of the joy of a friend's comforting presence and the encouragement of their words. The lives of our departed friends and family were true blessings from God's hand, so we don't pretend that losing them doesn't matter. But the time for Christian tears ends. Halting the funeral procession coming out of Nain, Jesus says to the grieving mother, "Do not weep." He ends her tears by the gift of resurrection, giving back what sin and death had stolen away. That is why we don't grieve without hope (1 Thess. 4:13). *O Lord, grant me to always grieve with hope. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:121-128 "Eyes Longing for Salvation"**

Christians do not suffer the world's assaults with hopeless resignation. We suffer them with eyes longing for the Lord's salvation, for the fulfillment of the Lord's righteous promise. When the foundations of love between husband and wife are mocked and mercilessly slandered by our society, we look to the Lord to vindicate the estate of marriage and to protect their children. When the babies are attacked and killed within the safety of their mothers' wombs, we pray the Lord's vindication for the lives our world calls worthless. Thanks be to God that our Lord gives us His Word as His pledge of good. We know our Lord is coming quickly. Soon the Lord will act in fulfillment of His promises of deliverance. *Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 18:1-11 "Angels Who See the Father's Face"**

Angels are not mythological figments of primitive religion. They are real persons with names and important tasks God has given them to fulfill. They serve God in heaven's divine service (Revelation 4:8-11), obey God's commands (Ps. 103:21), were present to bear witness and assist in God's great works of redemption (Luke 1:11; John 20:12), will gather the saints on the day of judgment (Matthew 13:39), and today serve the church in countless ways. They fight for us against the demons, who desire to destroy us (Psalm 91:11; Daniel 10:13), and they watch over the children (Matthew 18:10). St. Michael himself had the honor of casting Satan from heaven by the authority of Jesus' blood (Revelation 12:9). *Thank You for the ministry of the angels. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 "The Lord Over Death and Life"**

There is no God beside the Lord. No creature or bit of creation has the power to give life from death. No creature can judge and render the eternal verdict of guilty or justified. That the idols have usurped our worship of fear, love, and trust from the Lord shows the power of the devil's lie. He has made us think that serving mammon will make us safe and happy. He has convinced us to give sacrifices of works to the lifeless masks of the demons who cannot save from sin, guilt, judgment, and eternal death. The Lord kills our devotion to the demons with the Law. He gives spiritual life through His Son's Gospel which purifies our conscience from dead works to serve Him by faith. *Grant me Life for the sake of Your Son's atonement for my sin. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 11:19-45 "I AM the Resurrection and the Life"**

Commit this precious story to memory and treasure it in your heart. The devil wants us to think our faith is ineffectual, that Christ either doesn't see our trouble or doesn't have the power to help us. You can hear this anguish from Martha, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." But Martha's faith fights back against demonic despair with hope. "But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." The Lord not only gives her the promise of resurrection, but the joyous reality. He doesn't merely ask God for resurrection. Jesus says, "I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall live." *O Resurrection and Life, grant me firm faith in You and fulfillment of Your promises. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 15:21-28 "In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive"**

Our eyes behold sickness and death. We see men overcome by the weakness of their flesh as they sin against one another. We see death swallowing up life. Though our eyes cannot see it, Christ's resurrection is greater in power and scope than the deadly effects of Adam's sin. St. Paul tells the Romans, "If many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many" (5:15). The day is coming when we will rejoice to see Jesus reigning with death under His feet. We will see and rejoice at the host of saints gathered from across the continents and centuries who have followed their Captain in victory from death to life. *Grant me steadfast faith to share in Jesus' victory. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 36 "Inside the Heart"**

Unless we have the mirror of God's Word, we cannot know how perverse our condition has become. Deep in the heart transgression is born from corrupt desire. It captivates the imagination, seizes errant thoughts, and enslaves the mind to ponder evil. Of course, the sinner can't admit this to himself. He flatters himself in his own eyes so his iniquity cannot be found out through introspection. Unable to hate his own sin, a man justifies himself. As goes a man's thoughts, so go his words and deeds. Against these chains of iniquity stands the Lord's steadfast love, which is the refuge of His Gospel. The Law shows the wretched truth of what you've become. The Gospel shows your life in Christ. *Continue Your steadfast love to those who know You. Amen.*

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