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.

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 graciously kept me this day; 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.

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
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SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Revelation 12:11
"The saints have conquered Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

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

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
In God, My Faithful God
Sigismund Weingartner

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.

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.

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.

4. 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.

5. Prevent the Word of God
   From falling by the wayside;
   That I may bear fruit in ev'-ry season
   And glory in the sight of God.
   I trust in Him, and He will grant me
   The lasting crown of life.

6. The Savior, whose love is true,
   In all my tribulation
   Is unto me a tower of safety,
   A place of rest and refuge.
   He is my God, my strength and help;
   He is my shield and my security.

7. The saints have conquered Satan
   By the blood of the Lamb;
   By their testimony, did they impart
   Their faith in God's great name.
   They preached the word in faith,
   And gave their lives in witness for Him.
**Theme of the Week:** The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit

God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. The whole creation is put at the service of God’s saints. That includes the Holy Angels, who guard us in every way. They are the Lord’s messengers. In ancient days they announced His mighty acts; now, they guard us so that the Word of God may be our primary delight, in which we find salvation, guidance, correction, and life.

**SUN — Matthew 18:1-11 — St. Michael & All Angels**

God’s angels are a fearsome host—battle-ready. This is what “Sabaoth” means: armies. The angels always see the face of the Father. They are perfectly fixed on their commander, the Lord of Sabaoth. What a surprise it is, then, to hear from Jesus that they have another assignment: to guard the children of God. They are assigned, it would seem, to us. (This is the origin of the notion of “guardian angels.”) Everything in our Father’s Kingdom now serves for our good because Christ has redeemed us. Even His elite warriors serve as our honor guard. Lord, fix my eyes also on Your Kingdom and Your will. Amen.

**MON — Psalm 119:113-120 (SAMEKH) — Sincerity of Law and Gospel**

The Word of God is to be distinguished rightly, because it speaks Law and Gospel. But it is not a double-minded Word. God’s Law is not evil and His Gospel good, nor does God give the Law with the purpose of sending us to hell. Even hell itself was never prepared for us (Mt 25:41). God corrects us and cuts off all other routes to self-righteousness so that our righteousness may be found in Christ. In such a light, David sees the sincerity of these commandments in contrast to the duplicity of the sinful heart. Lord, hold me up in the sincerity of Your commands and the certainty of Your promises. Amen.

**TUE — Galatians 5:25-6:10 — The Burdens of Restoration**

We must not grow weary of doing good, especially to those in our own household: the ones we grow tired of first, the last ones we want to talk to about their sins. The Lord commands just this, that we bear one another’s burdens. There is no greater burden than trying to work with other Christians to try and help a brother entangled in sin. We are tempted to go along to get along, or maybe to lose all gentleness. But the work of the Spirit—for us and for others—is always the work of restoration. Lord, give patience and endurance to Your Church, and take not Your Spirit from us. Amen.

**WED — Deuteronomy 6:4-9 — Constant Creed**

The Creed is wonderful because we learn it by heart, say it together with joy, and can come back to any part at any time. This passage begins with the “Creed,” of sorts, for the people of Israel. Far more than just a confession for church or devotions, however, the Words of God from Moses are to be the constant food of conversation. Memorize God’s Word, certainly; but also discuss it. Make it part of your vocabulary. It is to be a way of life, not simply a child’s verse. For the Words of God are what truly give life, by His Spirit. Lord, plant Your Word deeply in my heart, that it may bear much fruit. Amen.

**THU — Luke 10:38-42 — One Thing Needful**

Some churches replace Sunday services with community service projects. People also sometimes insist that God can be worshipped as well outside of church as in it (so they don’t come). Today’s reading responds to both. Good works of service to the neighbor are excellent. Likewise, love toward the neighbor glorifies God, and happens in our daily lives. But when Christ is present—when His Word is being heard and His Sacrament distributed—good works come second. Christ’s gracious Word is the one thing needful. Nothing comes before it. Lord, give me delight in Your Word above all else. Amen.

**FRI — Acts 8:26-39 — Nothing Prevents It**

The Gospel (good news) about Jesus is the heart and point of the Scriptures, including the marvelous chapter of Isaiah the Ethiopian eunuch was reading. But see what conclusion arises out of believing and hearing such news: Baptism. It is obvious to this eunuch. If the promises of Christ are so grand, what can prevent it? “Nothing” is the answer. Let it be so with us. The obvious conclusion of hearing God’s Word is that we believe it, that we gladly receive it and all the gifts that it promises also. Lord, Your gifts and promises in Christ are boundless. Guide me into your Word anew each day. Amen.

**SAT — Psalm 34 — Kept in the Lord’s Message**

“The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” We began the week with angels on our minds, guarding us. In the end, we must remember what the word “angel” means: messenger. The Word of the Lord is the primary concern of the angels: may it also be with us. They are the Lord’s servants most of all so that the Word of Christ may be guided into our ears and hearts. Where His Word is despised, there is only desolation: where His Word reigns, we are kept safe, through many afflictions and enemies. Lord, redeem my life and fill it with Your Word and Your praise. Amen.

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