



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23**

Have respect to Your cov- / nant, O Lord;\*  
 oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!  
 Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;\*  
 do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.  
 O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?\*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?  
 Remember Your congre- / gation,\*  
 which You have pur- / chased of old,  
 The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—\*  
 this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.  
 Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.\*  
 Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 20:26-28**

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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  
**O God, Thou Faithful God**

TLH 395, LSB 696  
 Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,  
 Thou Fountain ever flowing,  
 Who good and perfect gifts  
 In mercy art bestowing,  
 Give me a healthy frame,  
 And may I have within  
 A conscience free from blame,  
 A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do  
 With ready heart and willing  
 Whate'er Thou shalt command,  
 My calling here fulfilling;  
 To do it when I ought,  
 With all my might, and bless  
 The work I thus have wrought,  
 For Thou must give success.

**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 6-12, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

This week we will be looking at the distinction between the Law and the Gospel. We will see what Scripture tells us about not only righteousness but also that of service. How do we serve? More importantly, how are we served? We will see how Jesus is the example of both the servant and the one who walks in righteousness for our sakes. These are the topics for our consideration this week from the gracious and bountiful Word of our God.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-37 – Being the Good Samaritan

This text is familiar to all of us. And why is that? It is a simple story that captures not our imaginations, but our hearts because we all desire to be like the Good Samaritan. We all want to think of ourselves as the one who would surely stop what we are doing to provide aid to someone in need. But how many times have we failed to do just that? How many times have we driven by a vehicle stopped on the side of the road or driven past someone begging at an interstate on-ramp? It turns out that we aren't good Samaritans. Rather, we can see that in our sin, we have more in common with the poor man who was beaten and left for dead. And it is Jesus who comes and cleanses us and cares for us. *O Lord, help me to see the love that You have for me, that I may show that love to my neighbor. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM) – Boasting in the Lord

These are arrogant words, aren't they? If we heard our children speaking like this, we would surely correct them and talk about the value of humility. And yet, what is the Psalmist speaking about here? The Psalmist is not speaking about his own inherent goodness or how great he is. Rather, the Psalmist declares the value of keeping the things of God before us. Through faith, the Holy Spirit works by means of the Word to create in us a desire to be the people who would indeed hate every evil way. While we ought not go around extolling our virtues over and against others, we can rejoice in the goodness and love of God that we have received. *Almighty God, do keep Your Law always before my eyes to call me to serve You in faith and righteousness that only You can give. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22 – The Superior Gospel

Yesterday we rightly saw the value of rejoicing in the Law. Today we are pointed to that which is greater than the Law, the Gospel. The message of Jesus is the single most important message in all of history, but it can become something that we take for granted. When we do that, we have lost the ability to grasp the glory of Jesus. Jesus is the source of all of the promises of God's love. Out of the love of God through Jesus, our Lord takes the role of the Good Samaritan to bind our wounds. He sets us on the path of righteousness. All of the good that we have received, we receive from the hand of Jesus. *O Lord, I pray that You would hold Your glory ever before my eyes that my gaze and attention would not wander from You. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5 – Walking By Faith

Leviticus is not a book that we often spend much time thinking about or studying. It's just a bunch of old laws that don't apply to us anymore, right? Wrong. There is more to this book than that. What we see today is the instruction of God through Moses to His people. What does God instruct them? He instructs them to follow His statutes, His Law. This is predicated upon what God has already done for Israel. Because He saved them from slavery in Egypt, He now calls them to live righteous lives. In the same way, He calls us to live righteous lives on account of the salvation that was won for us by Jesus at the cross. Our good works flow from our righteousness, not into it. *O Lord, teach me Your ways and keep me steadfast in Your paths that I may walk in the righteousness You desire. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 – Called to Serve

This account shows us that the very exemplar servant was our Lord Jesus. We have talked a lot this week about service and walking in the paths set for us. Let us never forget that it was Jesus Himself who came to serve us and, in so doing, perfectly walked the path of righteousness that our heavenly Father demands. We know that we will never be as perfect or as righteous as Jesus on our own. He gives us a share in His righteousness and in His perfection through faith. Jesus shares with us all that He has, just like the Good Samaritan shared what he had with the injured man. This is what our Lord has chosen to do for us. *Almighty God, bless me that I may keep me eyes always fixed on He who has saved me and redeemed me. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17 – Salvation and the Law

The Law is given for sinners, just like you and just like me. Through the Law, God makes His perfect will known for us and we see where He would have us tread. However, because we are sinners, the Law stands to always accuse us, reminding us of how we have failed. It is only through the light of Christ that we see the Law in a different way. We no longer see the Law as a list of things that we must accomplish, but it is an example of how we can show our appreciation to God for what He has done. In Christ, the threat of the Law is gone and is instead replaced with a joy and an eager heart to serve. When we focus on Jesus, the Law becomes much easier to properly see. *O Lord, help me keep my eyes ever fixed on You, and in so doing, the rest of Your Word becomes clear to me as well. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 – The Rewards of Service

As we move on from this week after thinking about service and walking in the way that we should go, it is important for us to remember where this path that our Lord sets before us leads. It leads us into the Father's house. Though it is a difficult path set with many dangers on all sides, the journey is worthwhile because, at the end of it, we are given a place in the presence of our God. No matter what place we may receive, it is a far greater reward than anything that the world or the devil may offer to us. *Almighty God, keep me steadfast in this faith that I may come to the place that You have prepared for me and that I may continue to serve You into eternity. Amen.*

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