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.

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 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.

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 9-15, 2018

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

Idolatry turns calling God’s gifts “good” into calling good gifts “god.” We look to stuff, and then we cry out when it can’t save us. We seek that which bears no promise, ignoring that which delivers God’s mercy. The Word of the Lord fixes our eyes upon Jesus, that we may see all good things not just as gifts from God, but in their proper place, that they would work together for His good will. Christian life is rooted in God’s word and promises, that daily we would die to sin and rise to newness of life, and daily we would be shown the goodness of the Lord.

**SUN**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24-34 – Your Brain Won’t Empty of Worry, So Fill it With Christ.

Jesus says, “Do not be anxious.” But I think, “The lilies are thrown into the fire, no matter how pretty they look. Here one day and gone the next.” I know worrying won’t fix it, but there’s no off switch for my anxiety. The answer isn’t fire, no matter how pretty they look. Here one day and gone the next. “I know my one will, to save us. Amen.

**MON**


I hate the double-minded. I am double-minded. Hide me from my love of all things evil. Shield me from my enemies, but especially from Old Adam. Uphold me with Your promise, that my hope would not be in myself, but in You alone. You will put to death the wicked, but You have promised resurrection to those who love Your testimonies. Lord, let me be baptized, that each day Old Adam would drown and die and a new man would rise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever. Amen.

**TUE**

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:25-6:10 Christianity is Not a 0-Sum Game.

Christianity is not a 0-sum game. When you look bad it doesn’t make me look better. Keeping what you ought to share doesn’t make you richer. It just deprives you. We act as if God doesn’t love us, that He only rewards those who look the best, that He only gives so much daily bread. Scarcity turns us on each other. But what if God loved us? What if He provided daily bread everyday? What if His forgiveness was not just for us, but for our neighbor, that we would be lifted up by Him together? That’s Christianity. Jesus for sinners, the generosity of God for us. Lord Jesus, fix our eyes on Your mercies, for us and for all, that we would see our neighbors as worthy of love even as You have loved us all. Amen.

**WED**

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 I Learned it From Watching You

Parents, it’s not your pastor’s job to teach your kids to love Jesus. They learn that from you. If you talk more about sports than you do about the catechism, don’t be shocked when the Catechism gets left behind. If you don’t care, revisit Deuteronomy 6:4. “You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart.” All of us fail. We all struggle with devotions at home. We’re sinners. This is what makes the catechism beautiful. It’s our hope, because it teaches of a God who is merciful to sinners. God sustains us, so we cling to Him.

**THU**


Christianity is not about what you can do for Jesus, but what Jesus does for you. Being the church is not skipping worship to rake leaves. It’s being near Jesus to receive from Him in Word and Sacrament. I realize there’s a lot to do. It’s easy to become distracted with much serving, but one thing is necessary. Faith in Jesus goes to Jesus. He has promised to be found in Word and Sacrament, not as yet one more thing to worry about, but as the remedy to worry and anxiety. It’s even enough to care for our neighbors after. Lord, show us what is necessary, that we may seek You where You have promised to be found and receive from You in joy. Amen.

**FRI**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-39 What Hinders Baptism?

What hinders baptism? In this case, it was the lack of a preacher. The eunuch had the Bible, so why would he need a preacher? Or for that matter, why read the word if you listen to the sermon? We love to take things God gives us and set them against each other. Usually to get out of something. Preaching and the Scriptures go hand in hand. Baptism isn’t opposed to these things, but now saves you, delivering the promises made in the word. God gives multiple gifts, and they work together for good. Don’t pick one, receive all.

**SAT**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 God’s Goodness is Measured from the Whole Creed.

Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. But I have a long list of things I lack. We so often try to measure the goodness of God in the 1st Article of the Creed. Do I have enough stuff? No. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, after all. Yet our hope is not in stuff. Hope in God. The Lord delivers us. He redeems the life of His servants. Look past the 1st Article of the Creed and into the 2nd and 3rd. See the goodness of the Lord. We lack nothing when we have Christ and He has us.

Lord God, heavenly Father, be near to us in our affliction, and fix our eyes upon Your mercy, given in the person of Your Son. Amen.

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