

“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5**

Vindicate | me, O God,\*  
 and plead my cause against an ungodly | nation;  
 oh, deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man!\*  
 for You are the God | of my strength; (Psalm 43:1–2)  
 Oh, send out Your light | and Your truth!\*  
 Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your | holy hill.  
 Then I will go to the al- | tar of God,\*  
 to God my ex- | ceeding joy.  
 Why are you cast down, | O my soul?\*  
 And why are you disquieted with- | in me?  
 Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,\*  
 the help of my countenance | and my God.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 8:51**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My Word, he will never see death.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Christ, the Life of All the Living**

TLH 151, LSB 420  
 Ernst Christoph Homburg



1. Christ, the Life of all the living,  
 Christ, the Death of death, our foe,  
 Who, Thyself for me once giving  
 To the darkest depths of woe,—  
 Through thy sufferings, death, and  
 merit  
 I eternal life inherit:  
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction  
 And hast borne it patiently,  
 Even death by crucifixion,  
 Fully to atone for me;  
 Thou didst choose to be tormented  
 That my doom should be prevented.  
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

**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: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

“Whoever is of God hears the words of God.” Natural man is corrupt and incapable of spiritual discernment. This biblical witness runs counter to the high opinions folks have of the human spirit. But the evidence is undeniable. The loftiness of the human spirit has no room for Christ or God’s Word. If anything, the lofty human spirit persecutes Christ and His saints. Jesus suffered this enmity to overcome it. By the perfect sacrificial offering of his death, he ransomed our souls from unbelief. With the blood that flowed from his side bound together with baptismal water by promise, he gives us heavenly birth.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 “Belonging to God”

We can manipulate the message of Christianity to make it palatable to the world. It’s easy to do. Speak words of blessing and ignore the words that teach repentance. Pick and choose the nice sounding parts of the Bible and ignore the rest. But this is not how Jesus our Lord preaches to his fellow countrymen, the Jews. They began to believe in him, but they tried to fit Jesus’ words into their false understandings of what it means to belong to God. Jesus will not share glory with any other false gods and false teachings. That’s why the unbelieving flesh must be crucified and die with Jesus. But in this death, we find eternal life.

Jesus raises up hearts to trust and keep his Word. “Grant, O Lord, that I never see death but find life in Jesus’ Word.” Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 “The Upholder of My Life”

Betrayal is bitter. When we love, we open hearts our friends, family, or spouse. In this vulnerability, we’re open to unanticipated attack and the wounds inflicted on our heart sting deeply. Our neighbors are sinners. Invariably they will betray our trust. They will wound our hearts opened to them in love. The temptation is to return sin for sin. But that is not the way of one who knows Christ. David was betrayed by the Ziphites. He feared Saul would seize and destroy him. But in his distress he cried to the Lord “the Upholder of my life.” Men are faithless. God is faithful. He delivered David, just as he delivers you with the comfort of his promises. “O God, save me by your name and vindicate me by your might.” Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 “High Priest”

What does it all mean? Why did Jesus die on the cross? What did it accomplish? How does it help me? The author to the Hebrews, perhaps St. Paul himself, teaches us to understand the cross with faith, trusting not in a mere execution of an innocent man, but in a high priestly sacrifice and offering to gain God’s eternal favor forever. The sacrifices of the old covenant had to be performed over and over again. They were not sufficient in themselves to obtain God’s favor or to purify consciences. Instead, their value was in preaching a propitiatory sacrifice greater than themselves, the blood of our great High Priest, brought into the presence of God by Christ himself through the eternal Spirit. “Cleanse my conscience from guilt, O Lord.” Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 “The Families of the Earth Shall Be Blessed”

The nations were scattered. No one feared God. No one remembered his name. From among the idolaters of the world, God chose one man with whom to speak. What made Abram more worthy than his countrymen in Haran? Nothing. By grace the Lord spoke to Abram. For the sake of the Seed that would be born from Abram’s family, the Lord plucked Abram and his household out of slavery to idols so that he could hear and believe the promises that save by faith. Abram’s Seed has come. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father’s right hand is blessing for all the families of the earth. “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “Through faith in Your name, save me O Jesus.” Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 “Whoever Loses His Life for My Sake”

Jesus speaks a promise to persecuted Christians. “Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.” Though men boastfully acknowledge their spiritual progress toward enlightenment, gaining paradise with works of righteousness, or saving the planet with a carbon neutral lifestyle, they deny Christ to their peril. Jesus will deny them before his Father who is in heaven. Dear Christian, take heart when the members of your own family hate you for Christ’s sake. As Jesus bore the cross, so you also must bear the cross. Rejoice! Losing everything in this life is gain.

“Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” “Grant me to bear the cross with faith and hope, O Lord” Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 “Folly”

Do you regret not being wise, powerful, or of noble birth? Don’t. The calling of the foolish, weak, and insignificant glorifies God. Your calling unto salvation shames the strong. Being low and despised is advantage in the kingdom of heaven. Do you consider yourself less than nothing? Then see how God gave everything for you, His only begotten Son, to redeem you with a cross. The Greeks, who only respect philosophy, call the cross folly. The Jews stumble over a God who delights to reveal himself in the suffering weakness of death. But to you who are being saved it is the power of God. You are in Christ Jesus. He is your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. “Grant me only to boast in you, O Lord.” Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 “To Gaze upon the Beauty of the Lord”

Your friends and neighbors find the Jesus’ cross ‘cringe worthy.’ Don’t be tempted toward their shame. Jesus bore your shame upon the cross to clothe you with glorious garments of his righteousness. The world cringes away, but true Christians draw near and worship. To behold Christ crucified for sinners is “to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.” To hear him preach comfort from his cross is our ‘shelter in the day of trouble.’ Jesus’ head bowed in suffering is the lifting up of our heads in joy. Through Jesus death, you gain life, yes even the eternal life of resurrection. That’s why we confess with David, “I will look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” “Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud: be gracious to me and answer me!” Amen.

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