

“The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16**

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.*
 He has redeemed my / soul in peace.
 Cast your burden / on the Lord,*
 and He shall sus- / tain you.
 Give ear to my / prayer, O God,*
 and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.
 My heart is severely pained with- / in me,*
 and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.
 Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,*
 and horror has over- / whelmed me.
 I will pray, and / cry aloud,*
 and the Lord shall / save me.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 143:9 NKJV**
 “Deliver me, O Lord from my enemies: in You I take shelter.”

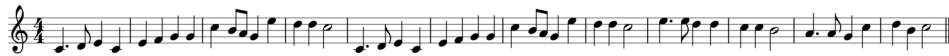
7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

TLH 1, LSB 901
 Benjamin Schmolk



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| <p>1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessed is this place,
 Filled with solace, light, and grace!</p> | <p>3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy
 seed is duly sown;
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.</p> |
| <p>2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee, Come Thou
 also unto me;
 Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a
 heaven on earth must be.
 To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
 Let it be Thy temple now!</p> | <p>4. Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me
 keep Thy gift divine,
 Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
 As my guiding star through life,
 As my comfort in my strife.</p> |

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 August 13-19, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

This week we give attention to the afflictions of God's people and the promises which God has made in the midst of those afflictions. We are buffeted from all sides by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and recognizing in them a kind of preaching of our own weakness and frailty, we flee to the mercy of Christ, who alone is our salvation and our God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48 Wrath and Mercy

In 70 AD, the Roman general Titus would lay siege to the city of Jerusalem for five months, eventually capturing the city and razing the Temple to the ground. Tens of thousands of the inhabitants would perish. Forty years earlier, upon seeing Jerusalem from the heights of the Mount of Olives, Jesus would weep for it because he saw the destruction that will come upon it, a destruction which comes because they refused repentance - "because you did not know the time of your visitation". The wrath of God is real, but so is His mercy in the gospel. You have been visited by Jesus in the preaching of His word which forgives sins. Repent and believe the gospel that you would live eternally. *Lord, I believe! Have mercy on me! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80 Merciful Affliction

In the economy of God, it is not only the things which we would count spiritual and temporal goods - a good conscience, earthly blessings, etc. - but also those things which we would count as negative and undesirable which serve God's purpose for us. Listen to the psalmist, "I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me" (v.75). The affliction of God amazingly, is a mercy. God does not afflict for no reason, but that we would be humbled by affliction and brought to repentance "For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." (Heb. 12:6). Faced with affliction and your own sin, turn to the Lord. Trust Him. He will deliver you. *Jesus, I trust in You! Let me not be confounded. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-55 The Blessedness of Faith

Today we remember Mary, Mother of Our Lord. We remember her firstly because God used her to bring about the miraculous virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly all generations call her "Blessed!" just as she has said. Thanking God for this mystery, we also look to Mary as an example of faith and trust in God, of what we are to be in God's Church. Listen to Elizabeth speak of her - "blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord" (vs. 45). That's for us too! God makes promises through His word, and the Christian believes them. That is Mary's way. That is the Church's way. For through this faith we are justified, forgiven, and blessed, just as Mary is! *My soul magnifies the Lord! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-7 Talismans

Merriam-Webster defines the word *talisman* as "1. an object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune 2. something producing apparently magical or miraculous effects" For the people of Jeremiah's time, the Temple was such a talisman, which replaced true faith in God and its attendant virtues of justice and mercy. We might not think we moderns are so gullible as to believe in talismans, but neither did the Judeans, and yet that's what happened. What do you trust in? Your church membership? That you "got confirmed"? How you vote? How much you give? If something has taken the place of true faith in God and hearing His word, you have a talisman, a magic blessing-bringer. *Lord Jesus, I trust in You alone! Let me hear Your word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:16-24 Faithful to the Word

The Jews of Jesus' day were primed to receive their long-promised Savior. And yet when the forerunner came, they called him demonic, and when Christ came they called Him a drunkard. Many of those who were most likely to understand and receive the Gospel, the religious, rejected it. "This generation" is always with us, even today. The approval of culture, even a religious culture or church body (even the LCMS!), is no barometer for biblical faithfulness. God's word alone is to have sway. And through that Word alone, God will continue to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His Church. *Lord Jesus, make us seek the approval of You and not our culture. Make us faithful witnesses to Your gospel. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15 Exhort One Another...

"No man is an island unto himself" wrote the poet and Anglican priest John Donne. We are made for others. The man who is an island, separated from others and alone has no one to serve in Christian love, but also has no one to serve him, to support him, to encourage him. He is alone and that is exactly where the Devil wants us to be. The preacher of Hebrews teaches his congregation (and us) to "exhort one another daily, while it is called 'today' lest any of you be hardened..." (vs. 13). This is what your congregation is for. Look out for one another, pray for one another, encourage one another. Alone you are weak, together with your congregation, the body of Christ, you are strong in the Lord. *Lord, thank You for my family in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 A Prayer for Deliverance

The Christian has three historic enemies: His sinful flesh, the world, and the Devil. They all rear their ugly heads at different times and in different proportions in our Christian life, and we will not be through with them until the Lord returns. But until that time, we pray this psalm against them. Our old enemies pursue our souls, and yet we are compelled by our faith to call out to our Lord and Deliverer, Jesus, to do battle on our behalf. In His cross He has destroyed what claim our enemies had on us, and now all they can do is tempt, persecute, and accuse us. But they cannot defeat us. We are in Christ, and He is the One Who revives, Who brings our souls out of trouble. *In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy those who afflict my soul. For I am Your servant. Amen.*

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