

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11**

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving- | kindnesses,\*  
for they are | from of old.  
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.\*  
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!  
To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.\*  
O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;  
do not remember the sins | of my youth;\*  
according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.  
Good and upright | is the Lord;\*  
therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.  
For Your name's | sake, O Lord,\*

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 30:5**

“For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the 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  
**When In the Hour of Utmost Need**

TLH 522, LSB 615  
Paul Eber



1. When in the hour of utmost need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,  
4. For Thou hast promised graciously  
To hear all those who cry to Thee  
Through Him whose name alone is great,  
Our Savior and our Advocate.

5. And thus we come, O God, today  
And all our woes before Thee lay;  
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,  
Perplexed by fears on every hand.  
6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,  
Absolve us through Thy boundless grace,  
Be with us in our anguish still,  
Free us at last from every ill.



“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”

**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 February 25-March 2, 2024

## THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

The devil afflicts even those whose faith is great. Tormented by temptation, afflicted with accusations against conscience, and seeing their own children oppressed by demons, the saints are driven to pray, "Have mercy on me Lord, Son of David." Our prayers ascend, but help seems slow in coming. In our impatience the devil tempts us to abandon our prayers. David reminds us, "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Our prayers are precious to the Lord. He answers not because we deserve it, but because of His own mercy purchased and won by the blood of Christ.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 "A Woman of Great Faith"

Faith that's planted in God's promises is stronger than you'd expect. Its roots go deep into the Word in times of affliction and suffering. Such a saint "is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in season, and its leaf does not wither" (Psalm 1:3). Though faith seems next to nothing in times of anguish, its strength can move mountains (Matthew 17:20) and withstand demonic foes (Ephesians 6:16). The Canaanite Woman teaches us how tenaciously this faith clings to Christ and His every Word. His momentary silence can't stop her from remembering Scriptures promises. Even what sounds like an insult becomes the anchor for her hope. *Lord, by my own power I am nothing. Grant me faith that won't let go of Jesus in my time of need. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 "Faith for Sinners"

The devil tells us that those who have wrestled their demons and overcome them by sheer determination and will power are alone worthy to speak to God. He'll use the example of your neighbor's good works to shame your daily afflicted conscience. "Why can't you be more like them? Why haven't you overcome the filth of your soul by now? Do you even believe in Christ?" In this world and on this side of the grave we are burdened with this weakness, but that is so the glory and honor of Christ might alone be magnified. Jesus came to save sinners. Psalm 130 is for sinners. The promises of salvation are for sinners who trust in Christ and not in their own righteousness. *But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 "The Will of God"

God doesn't want us to think, speak, and act like slaves to the flesh and demons. Sexual immorality, giving our bodies over to passions and desires outside of the godly bonds of marriage, is celebrated by our world. Whereas the Scriptures teach self-control, the world demands immediate indulgence as a moral necessity. The dangers and consequences aren't immediately apparent. Therefore, we must teach the sixth commandment and speak about God's definition of marriage. We must take responsibility over what we show our children. We must uphold chastity in our own lives so that others may see and be encouraged by our joy in the untarnished enjoyment of God's gifts in married and single life. *Make me holy by Your Spirit, Lord. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25 "The Lord Assembles the Church"

The members of the Christian church are "Survivors of the Nations." They are the remnant that is being drawn out of the corrupt and dying world subject to God's wrath and judgment. How are they drawn out of these dark waters? A cry goes out! A preacher lifts his voice! "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." The Lord has reached out His hand into the waters of sin and death to save us. He grasps us by His grace. He pulls us into the ark of His church by planting faith in the crucified Christ into our hearts. Who is righteous and strong enough to save? Only the Lord. God be praised our salvation is secure in His pierced hands. *In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29 "I Believe; Help My Unbelief!"

Can you imagine the frustration of the man whose son the disciples couldn't help? How can there be hope if these hand-picked men have no power to cast this demon out? Jesus diagnoses the problem immediately. Faithlessness. The disciples spoke some words. Nothing happened. Then they wondered if they had what it took without Jesus around to wrestle with demons. Of course they didn't. Their faith in themselves is no faith at all. All things are possible for the one who believes in Jesus alone. There is no contest or struggle with the demon on Jesus' part. He speaks the Word. The demon is put under His feet. When you're tempted to trust in yourself, turn to Jesus instead. Faith in Him is never put to shame. *Help my unbelief! Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20 "Praying Over the Sick"

It's amazing how much of my pastoral vocation comes down to these few verses. I hear the suffering of the saints. I pray for them. I hear of someone's joy. Together we thank the Lord. I visit the sick, pray with them, and give them anointing blessings full of the comfort of the Holy Spirit. The Lord raises up the afflicted, even when their bodies are dying. Their souls find life and comfort in Jesus. More than anything, pastors come bearing the absolution, the forgiveness of sins. Maybe people want some deep insight explaining why they're going through their suffering. But what they really need is to hear their sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. *O Lord, grant me healing of the soul with Your forgiveness so that I may enjoy the resurrection unto life. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 "Forgive All My Sins"

This is a beautiful psalm to be prayed in times of distress. It reminds us that we are surrounded by enemies. Our neighbors' hearts have been turned by the Evil One to slander and hurt us. False teachers offer vain hope founded on temporal and fallen things. The demons hate us and strive to break through our defenses so we would fall into despair, shame, and vice. Against them, the psalmist sets our eyes on the Lord Jesus. We learn His ways. We follow His paths. We discover rescue and protection from all earthly and spiritual foes. The Lord Jesus comes to our help because He has purchased and won us to be His own possession with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. *Let me not be put to shame, O Lord. Amen.*

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