

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49

The Lord was / my support.*
In the day of my ca- / lamity
He brought me out into a / broad place;*
He delivered me because He delight- / ed in me.
I will love You, O / Lord, my strength.*
The Lord is my rock and my / fortress.
For You will save the humble / people,*
but will bring down / haughty looks.
As for God, His way is / perfect;*
the word of the Lord is / proven;
I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the / Gentiles,*
and sing praises / to Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 1: 46-47
“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 384, LSB 559
Oh, How Great is Your Compassion Johann Olearius



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| 1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
And in our deep degradation
Thou wast merciful that we
Might be saved eternally! | 3. And for this our soul's salvation
Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
In Thy Sacraments and Word.
He imparts true consolation,
Granteth us the gift of faith
That we fear nor hell nor death. |
| 2. Thy great love for this hath striven
That we may from sin be free
And forever live with Thee;
Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
And extends an earnest call
To His Supper unto all. | 4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,-
Truth doth evermore abide,-
Then in Thee I will confide.
Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
My salvation is to me
Well assured eternally. |



“The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God”

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: **The Spirit's Call to Fellowship with God**

The Lord is kind. He delivers, rescues, and delights in us. He does not give us what we deserve, but gives Himself for our life and our salvation. He rebukes and chastens those He loves, waking us up from the stupor of pride, and covers our shame. He brings peace into the midst of our chaos and hope into the midst of despair. He is the light in the midst of a dark and darkening world. He surprises us with His Gospel, so that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God, is our delight and salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 14:16-24: The Great Supper without Cost**

In the parables of Jesus there is almost always someone acting strangely. In this one, it is those who are invited to the wedding feast. They act like it's something bad, something to be avoided, and they make excuses instead of plans. They avoid what was prepared for their joy. Crazy, but common. The devil tempts us to avoid the kingdom of God, to evade our Father's house, and escape His feasts as if it were something odious or burdensome. How wrong. The wedding-feast of the Son of God has been prepared by His death and resurrection, and all are called, you are called, to rejoice with Him. This is joy upon joy. *God, grant us ears to hear the joy of the call of the Gospel. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:9-16: Delighting in the Lord's Statues**

We are called to delight in the Word. "I will delight myself in Your statutes" (119:16). This is more than reading and studying, it has to do with our affections, our joy. Luther reminds us that the 3rd Commandment has us "gladly" hearing and learning the word. There is a spiritual battle over our attention and affection, and the devil would have us delight in anything other than the Word of God. But this Word is God's mind made known, His kindness and love revealed. His Word gives us comfort and courage. It is a lamp and light in the dark, and a solid foundation when nothing seems solid at all. His Word is delightful, and by the Holy Spirit, we'll catch on to that. *Lord, give us delight in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 John 3:13-18, The World's Hatred Does Not Surprise Us**

The world loves death. That is why it hates Jesus, and why it hates you. The world loves lies. That is why it hates Jesus, and why it hates you. You belong to Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the One who laid down His life for us, the One who loves us. We, therefore, love one another, care for and bless one another. For this, the world hates, but we are not surprised. It hated Jesus first. *Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for Your life-giving sin-forgiving love, and we pray You would keep us in Your kindness to life everlasting. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 16:13-20: The Solid Rock of the Name of Jesus**

Who is Jesus? This is the most important question for us to answer. Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" How would we answer that question? How would our family and friends? Peter gives us the right answer, the correct, heaven-revealed, and rock-solid confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Amen, Peter. The Lord's church is built on this knowledge, this confession, that Jesus is the Christ, the One set-apart for the work of redemption and anointed into the office of Savior. *Lord Jesus, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Keep us in the confession of the true faith, and may the hope of our salvation abound in our hearts. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 14:25-35: Consider the Cost**

Our hearts are grasping things. We are fearing, loving, trusting creatures, and our fear, love, and trust (which is our worship) is always looking for an object. Jesus claims exclusive rights. He alone will be feared. He will be loved above all others. Jesus alone we trust for our salvation. Anything else is idolatry. So Jesus makes a total claim on us. More important than our father and mother, brothers and sisters, even our own life, is our Savior, Lord, and Friend Jesus Christ. He paid the price for our redemption, His holy and precious blood, His innocent suffering and death, so that we would be completely His. God be praised. *O Lord, may we fear, love, and trust in You above all things. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Revelation 3:14-22: To the Church in Laodicea**

Jesus dictates seven beautiful letters to the church, His beloved. In this final letter to the Laodiceans He stirs them up, disrupting the coldness of their pride. "We are rich; we need nothing." "No," says Jesus, "you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." Jesus freezes them with the law, and then fires them up with the Gospel. "I cover the shame of your nakedness, I will give you sigh. My treasures make you rich." This is the zeal of repentance, knowing the depth of our sin and the height of Jesus' love. May the Holy Spirit create the same in our hearts and congregations. *Heavenly Father, cover our shame, heal our poverty, forgive our sins, and give us eyes to see the life and joy You have won for us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 1:39-56: Surprised by the Gospel**

The Lord casts down the haughty. The Lord lifts the lowly. That's His business, His work, His kingdom. He is the giver of good gifts, the Savior of sinners, the Helper of the widows and fatherless. Mary knows this. She is, first, lowly, humble, astonished that the Lord would come to her, would choose her, that she would be the mother of God! Faith is always astonished at the kindness of God. The Christian heart is always surprised by the Gospel. We know our sin, and that we deserve wrath and punishment, but the Lord comes along with kindness and peace, and everything is blessedly turned on its head. *Our soul magnify You, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in You, our God and Savior. Amen.*