

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 13:5-6, 1-4**

O Lord, I have trusted in Your / mercy;*
my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- / vation.
I will sing / to the Lord,*
because He has dealt bountiful- / ly with me. (Psalm 13:5-6)
How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for- / ever?*

How long will You hide Your / face from me?
How long shall I take counsel / in my soul,*
how long will my enemy be exalted / over me?
Consider and hear me, O / Lord my God;*
enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the / sleep of death;
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed a- / gainst him";*
lest those who trouble me rejoice when / I am moved.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:1**
"Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!"

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O God, the Strength of all those who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us the help of Your grace that in keeping Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

TLH 292, LSB 585
Nikolaus Selnecker



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| 1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
For us be ever veiled in night. | 4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace. |
| 2. In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament. | 9. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there. |



"The Spirit's Words in Holy Scripture"

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 June 18-24, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Spirit's Words in Holy Scripture

In the Nicene Creed we confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit who spoke by the prophets. In His speaking to the apostles and prophets, we have received a sure and certain word. We do not need miracles and other signs to give us confidence in Christ's redeeming work; we have the more certain Word of God. Through this Word, the Holy Spirit speaks, convicting us of our sinfulness and bestowing the forgiveness won for us by Christ's atoning death.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:31: "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets"

The rich man simply wanted Lazarus to be raised from the dead and scare his brothers into obedience. We ask this question many times too. "Just give me a sign that I'm doing the right thing," we ask, "Just a little miracle, please? Then I'll believe without a doubt." But we have something more sure than resurrected beggars and minor (or major) miracles. We have the Word of God, Moses, the prophets, and apostles, who declare to us the Word and will of God. By this Word preached, God converts our sinful hearts to trust in Him.

Almighty Father, by Your Holy Word, keep us steadfast in the faith, we implore You. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:1-8: "Oh that my ways may be steadfast"

The old man in each of us hates and despises God's Law. He despises the Word of God, His testimonies and statutes. And yet, despite our sinful rejection of God's Law, we can rightly pray this Psalm in Jesus Christ. He loved the testimonies of God perfectly, fixing His eyes always on the commandments of God. He not only gives us this perfection, but He creates in us a new man who now delights in the Law of God. We desire God's Law and testimonies, because that is who we are in Christ. We have received a new life in Him.

Father, fix our eyes on Your testimonies, statutes, and Law, that we may delight in them. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21: "We Love Because He First Loved Us"

The world talks about love, but despises it. The world espouses self-love—do what makes you feel good, do what feels right to you. But the love of Christ for the world is entirely different: He died for the world, the righteous One becoming sin to atone for those who sacrificed Him. While Christians fail to show this love perfectly, those who have been baptized into His name—who have been loved by Him—delight to share this love. They delight to share with the world the love of God for sinners, the love of Christ for the loveless.

Loving Father, forgive our lack of love, and teach us by Your Word to serve our neighbors in love. Amen.

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24: "Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me."

We admire and appreciate knowledge, whether formal or informal. Whether the person with more degrees than photos on the office wall or the one who can fashion a beautiful piece of carpentry from years of practice and building, we admire those who have knowledge. But Jeremiah says, "Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord . . ." While we can never understand God perfectly, the man made righteous by God delights to seek the knowledge of God's saving acts for mankind.

Wise Father, teach us not to boast in our own wisdom, and lead us in the knowledge of You. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21: Laying up in Spiritual Barns

We spend our lives laying up material possessions in metaphorical barns. How easy we fall into the trap of life that begins with a career of working our way up the company ladder to earn more pay, in order to spend more on vacations, possessions, and pleasures. And yet, no matter how much we have saved up, one day our Lord says to each of us, "This night your soul is required of you." So, God makes us rich toward Him as He gives us His riches into which we delve deeply, for there He showers us with forgiveness, righteousness, and new life.

Father, keep us ever in the Word that we might fill up our spiritual barns with knowledge of You. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19: "Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain"

We often spend our lives filling our metaphorical barns with material goods because we lack contentment. St. Paul reminds us today that "godliness with contentment is great gain." Godliness we learn only from delving deeply into the Word of God; and as we delve into God's Word, so we learn contentment. The two go hand-in-hand. The antidote to the worldly accumulation of possessions does not occur as we study more and more books about decluttering, but as we fill our lives with the presence of God in His Word, which gives eternal peace.

Almighty Father, You have provided all we need, help us to remain content in Your eternal peace. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34: I Will Continually Praise the Lord

What human words can be used to "bless the Lord"? What praise can we place upon our lips for the Lord continually? Out of the human heart comes only evil and wickedness. But in the Scriptures, the Lord gives us words worthy of His praise; He gives us praise for our lips. Regular, consistent meditation on God's Word and gathering with the church gives us the words to speak this continual praise. These words do not grow up within our hearts, but come from the mouth of God. No greater praise is there.

Father, keep me ever in the study of Your Word that Your praise might ever be on my lips. Amen.

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