



“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 3:19**

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

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.
 Evermore and evermore.

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 March 26-April 1, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

Jesus came into the world to save the world. Yet men were so twisted by the corruption of the flesh and the devil's lies that they hatefully rejected Christ's gracious words and actions. Jesus humbly preached that He desired nothing but their redemption. In response, they desired to kill Him. This same enmity of unbelief continues to stand against Christ's Word. And yet, against the contrary wills of the devil and flesh, the greater will of God prevails. The Jews rejection didn't stop Jesus' from reconciling them to the Father through His cross. So also,

Christ's Word fights tirelessly against our hard hearts turning them from unbelief to faith.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 "If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?"

Men love the echoes of their own opinions bouncing around inside their heads. But what happens when their beliefs are challenged? In anger they instinctively reject contrary assertions. What about the truth? If anything, the truth elicits a violent rejection since it strikes at the heart of the devil's power. Satan holds men captive through faith in a lie, that they don't need a savior from sin. Jesus confronts the lie knowing His humble, gracious revelations of saving truth will be rejected. Yet, from incomprehensible love, He persistently bears witness saying, "If anyone keeps my Word, he will never see death." Jesus' boldness has saved you. His truth broke the powerful lie and planted saving faith in your heart. *Thank You, O Christ, for saving me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 "The Prayer of the Betrayed"

The context for this Psalm is 1 Samuel 23:15-29. Saul unjustly sought David's life because he was driven mad with envy. Such are fruits of demonic attack. But as if one enemy wasn't enough, the Ziphites betrayed David's location. Men are weak. Their promises mean little to nothing. Therefore, David didn't cast himself on the mercy of men in the hour of his betrayal but on the constancy of God. Why? The Lord is faithful. David trusts in the Lord who keeps His promises, even when it looks like everything has turned against him. Just as David's hope was vindicated, so will your hope in Christ. The devil's power over you is ending. Sin's time is running out. Though all you have is the Word, it is enough. *O God, vindicate me by Your might. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 "A High Priest"

As we draw closer to Good Friday, our hearts anticipate the mysteries of the cross. Historians note the death of a religious outsider. Some people calling themselves Christians wish that Jesus' life wouldn't have been cut short so He could have succeeded in His mission. The Holy Spirit's view is wildly different. Jesus wasn't a helpless man caught up in forces outside of His control. He is the High Priest who offered Himself on the altar of the cross "thus securing an eternal redemption" and purifying our consciences "from dead works to serve the living God." Reason cannot attain this truth, but faith swells in our hearts with joy to hear that He is the mediator of a New Testament of grace. *Your cross is my life, O Christ. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 "The Call"

The nations of the earth were scattered. Once they thought themselves capable of forcing their way into heaven to stand face to face with God by their own reason and strength. No more. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled," says the Lord. In the land of Ur, a man lived who had no pretensions of greatness. He wasn't in line to become king of the Chaldeans. He wasn't respected among the Mesopotamians as a sage. Yet, by grace, the Lord chose him to receive the great, saving promise. "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Though the nations' hearts are darkened through unbelief, the Lord exults the promise of His Seed. Through the promise, He extends life to the dying world. *Grant me the light of Your salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 "The Blessings of Confession"

There's no gray area with Jesus. Either you confess Him as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who has come to take away the sin of the world, or you reject Him. Having nice thoughts about Jesus isn't enough. Saying that He's a good religious teacher or a moral example isn't enough. To confess is to speak boldly what you believe with your heart. To confess rightly, you must speak exactly what the Scriptures teach. Jesus knows the anguish and division that will come from your confession. He knows that you'll suffer rejection from friends, family, and be maligned by the powers of government. Take heart. Though you lose the world, you gain heaven and the life of the world to come. *Lord Jesus, keep me steadfast in my confession. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:21-31 "Boast in the Lord"

This lesson gives understanding. Why did the Jews reject Jesus? They wanted signs. But their eyes were never satisfied. When the sign of Jonah was given them, it still wasn't enough. They stumbled. Why did the Greeks reject Jesus? They sought wisdom. But the ultimate revelation of God's glory being displayed through a dying man on a cross was folly to them. Their minds couldn't grasp the simplicity and majesty of God in suffering. Where the eyes and mind fail, the heart succeeds, not because it has a power in itself to catch God, but because it is the organ of faith, filled to the brim by the calling of the Holy Spirit. The cross may be low and despised, dear Christian, but to you it is the power and wisdom of God. *I boast in You, O Lord. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 "One Thing"

The cross means pain. The cross means anguish. The cross means death. It does not mean defeat. For you it means redemption, reconciliation with the Father, forgiveness, and eternal life. The cross means Jesus, your Savior and Lord. The devil has arrayed himself against you as he arranged himself against Christ in the hour of His passion. Don't be surprised. Are you not a member of Christ's holy body? Though the devil sinks his teeth into you, you lose nothing. With Christ you gain everything. The devil's head is crushed. Your body dies only to be raised. Your tears are shed only to be wiped away. The world fades and the glory of the Lord's House shines with resurrection light. *Grant me to gaze upon Your beauty and inquire in Your temple. Amen.*

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