

“He Suffered the Opposition of Hell”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
 for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
 Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
 for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
 the troubles of my heart | have enlarged;*
 bring me out of | my distresses!
 Look on my affliction | and my pain,*
 and forgive | all my sins.
 Keep my soul, and de- | liver me;*
 let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Samuel 22:4**

“I call upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; 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 **Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation**

TLH 258, LSB 609

Matthaus Apelles von Lowenstern



1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation.
 Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
 Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
 Lord God Almighty.
3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor
 faileth;
 Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin as-
 saileth;
 Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell pre-
 vailth;
 Grant us Thy peace, Lord.

4. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuag-
 ing;
 Peace in Thy Church where brothers are en-
 gaging;
 Peace when the world its busy war is waging.
 Calm Thy foes' raging.
5. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driv-
 en;
 Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiv-
 en;
 Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven,
 Peace in Thy heaven.

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 3-9, 2024

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Opposition of Hell

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8b) Since the Fall, all people are conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil, doomed to be lost forever. But God was not willing to stand by and allow that to happen. Out of His boundless love for His fallen creation, He became Man in order to attack and overcome the devil. He did this not by force of arms but by suffering and dying. Jesus suffered the opposition of hell in order to deliver us from hell. Through Holy Baptism, Christ claims us as His own. He has delivered us from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation.

Now we, who were once the devil's goods, are children of light in the Lord.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28 – Keep the Word of God!

There is no neutrality when it comes to Jesus. Whoever is not with Him is against Him. That includes those who were formerly with Him yet willfully turned away from Him and despised His Holy Spirit. Lest we fall away and find that the last state is worse than the first, our Lord calls us once more to hear the Word of God and keep it. When we hear Christ's Word and keep it, that is, believe it and trust in all its promises, then we are certainly with Him, and we are truly blessed. *Grant us, dear Lord, ears to hear Your Word and faith to cling to all Your promises. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 43 – Again I Shall Praise Him

The psalmist had no earthly reason for hope. He was afflicted by an ungodly people. He went about mourning because of his enemy's oppression. He was even rejected by the God in Whom he would take refuge! Nevertheless, he knew by faith that God would not reject him forever. He knew that God would be his exceeding joy and that he would again praise Him. In the same way, our trials last but for a moment, and God's light and truth are eternal. No matter what sorrows we endure, we too shall again praise Him, our salvation and our God. *Deliver us, O God of our salvation, and we shall again praise You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-9 – Walk as Children of Light

“Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.” (Matthew 7:17) If we are to be imitators of God, walking in love and bearing the fruit of light, we must first become children of light. Otherwise, we are sons of disobedience who can only walk in sin. Thanks be to God He has made us His own through faith in Christ, Who loved us and gave Himself up for us! Having become beloved children of God by His grace, we walk in the light, bearing fruit that is good and right and true. *Heavenly Father, grant us Your grace, that we may flee from sin and walk in good works. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:1-7 – The Lord Is Mine

David begins his song of deliverance with ten declarations of who the Lord is to him: my Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, God, Rock, Shield, Horn of Salvation, Stronghold, Refuge, and Savior. By faith, David claimed the Lord as His God; therefore, he could take refuge in Him and find in Him salvation. The Lord wills that we also call upon Him with faith like David's, trusting that He is for us our Rock and Fortress, etc. He delights that we should claim Him to be our God, for He wills to hear our cry and save us. *O Lord, You are our God, Who has heard our cry and delivered us. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 8:42-51 – Deliver Us from Evil

With his lying and murdering day and night, the devil lets us have no peace, within or without. Because of this, we should be moved to pray constantly, “Deliver us from evil.” For unless God preserves us, we would not be safe from Satan even for an hour. This should also lead us to hunger and thirst all the more for the Sacrament and receive it as often as possible. For in it we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. Yes, the devil is a murderer from the beginning, but through Christ and His Gifts, we will never see death. *Lord Jesus, keep us from the assaults of the evil one. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 2:1-7 – Faith and Love

The Church in Ephesus was commended by Jesus for their steadfast opposition to erring teachers, but He rebuked them for abandoning their first love. Though they had rejected false doctrine, they did not abide in the love of God in Christ Jesus, by which Christians love one another. It need not be so, then and now. There should be no conflict between faithfulness and love. Instead, we hold fast to the pure doctrine of God's Word, which clearly reveals God's love for us, and in the unity of the Spirit we love one another as Christ has first loved us. *O God, keep us steadfast in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 – Praise in the Midst of Suffering

A striking feature of this psalm, and others like it, is that David praises God before he is delivered by Him. Before David prays for salvation from the insolent and ruthless men who rise against him (vv. 14-17), he gives thanks to God and glorifies His Name (vv. 8-13). Through faith in Jesus, we too may be certain of our final heavenly reward, though now we are poor and needy. In this fallen world, the devil still seeks our life, but the Lord helps and comforts us. Therefore, we confidently glorify His name now and forever. *Answer us, O Lord, in the day of our trouble when we call upon You. Amen.*

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