

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Jeremiah 29:11-12, Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11**

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, / says the Lord,*
thoughts of peace and not of / evil,
Then you will call upon Me and go and / pray to Me,*
and I will listen / unto you.
Lord, You have been favorable / to Your land;*
You have brought back the captivity of / Jacob.
Show us Your / mercy, Lord,*
and grant us Your sal- / vation.
Surely His salvation is near to those who / fear Him,*
that glory may dwell / in our land.
Truth shall spring out / of the earth,*
and righteousness shall look down from / heaven.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 97:10**

“O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Absolve, we implore You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

TLH 261, LSB 655
Martin Luther



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| <p>1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.</p> | <p>3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife.
And lead us out of death to life.</p> |
| <p>2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone:
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.</p> | |



“Resisting the Wicked World”

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: Resisting the Wicked World

God loves the world, sent His Son to save the world and yet Jesus makes it clear that His disciples are “not of the world” just as He is “not of the world” (John 17:14). Though we live in the world, we are not to love the world, be shaped by the world or become like the world. The world hates our Lord, His Word and those who love Him. Thus, our Lord prays that we would be preserved in faith, kept from the evil one and sanctified in the truth of His Word (John 17:15-16). This week’s readings highlight the first commandment and exhort us to fear, love and trust in God above all things even as we live in this fallen and evil world.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15-22 Rending to God the Things of God

The Pharisees and Herodians thought they had Jesus trapped. There was no way He could answer their question without upsetting someone. But they were wrong! Jesus flipped the question on them and put them on the spot: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21). What are they things of God? Broadly speaking, everything belongs to God, absolutely everything. You belong to God and everything that has been entrusted to you; it is His, all His. More narrowly, the things of God are repentance and faith in His Messiah. This is what the Pharisees and Herodians were not rendering to God. *O Lord, may we always rend to You repentance and faith in Your Son Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124 The Lord is on My Side

Many of us know by heart and confess weekly the last line of this psalm. We know, like David, that our help comes from the Lord, the Creator of all things and the great Redeemer and Rescuer of His people. Without the Lord “on our side” we would be utterly lost and eternally condemned. We wouldn’t just have to fear our enemies, we would have to fear God as our greatest enemy! But since God in His great love has reconciled His enemies to Himself through the death and resurrection of Christ, we may with St. Paul say, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:32). Or as David put it, “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Psalm 118:6). *O Lord, grant that we would find our help and salvation in You alone.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:17-21 Eyes on Jesus

Saint Paul warns the Christians in Philippi to beware of “the dogs” who trust in their flesh, that is, their keeping of the law and good works (Philippians 3:2). These “enemies of the cross” live by a completely different gospel which is no gospel at all (v. 18; cf. Galatians 1:6). Paul knows from experience that his confidence in the flesh and his keeping of the law availed for nothing. He counts all these things as rubbish because of Christ Jesus and the righteousness that comes through faith in Him (Philippians 3:8-9). This is the example Paul wants us to follow; keeping our eyes on Jesus, trusting in Him for all things as we await His coming again with great joy and hope. *Lord Jesus, help me keep my eyes and my mind set on You and not the things of this world. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 32:1-8 The King Shall Come

Amidst a series of judgment oracles spoken against Israel and Judah, Isaiah weaves in a promise of a King who will reign in righteousness. The true King of God’s people will establish righteousness and justice (Isaiah 9:7). The “Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him” and He shall cause the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the mute to speak (Isaiah 11:2; 35:5-6). This King will expose the ways of the fool and the scoundrel for what they are and give them the justice they deserve (Isaiah 59:18). But those who repent and turn from their wickedness shall be saved by the righteousness of this King (Isaiah 1:27). Rejoice in this King and the salvation and peace He comes to bring! *O Lord, You are King of Kings, make us ready for Your coming again in glory. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:41-44 Faith and Trust in God Alone

In *The Large Catechism* Dr. Luther points out that “it is trust and faith of the heart alone that make both God and an idol.” Therefore, he says, “Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God.” Yes, our idols can be just about anything we fear, love, or trust more than the God who gives us His gifts. Wealth, status, and impressing others does not seem to be an idol for this poor widow who gave “out of her poverty” (v. 44). She gave all, everything she had, because she trusted the Lord to provide for her every need. Money, wealth, and finances can be sneaky idols that foster unbelief, worry, anxiety, selfishness and greed. *O Lord, give us the faith of this widow to trust You to provide for all our needs. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:1-7 Good Government and God’s Authority

Saint Paul reminds us that there is no government that God has not established, no government that He does not have authority over. God has established governing authorities for our good, to preserve good order, curb and restrain evil so that society is peaceful and spared of anarchy. Therefore, we should respect, revere, obey and pray for our governing authorities (1 Timothy 2:1-2). It is, however, a matter of idolatry to place any government above the authority of God. Ultimate obedience, worship and service belong to God alone and no one else! Just ask Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3) or Peter and John (Acts 5:29). *Lord God, give us good leaders who revere You, promote Your good, and punish what is evil in Your eyes. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31 Commending Our Life and Days to God

Our Lord Jesus expressed His complete confidence and trust in His Father on the cross as He prayed the words of this psalm; “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Lk 23:46). Because sin and death has lost its grip over those in Christ, Christians over the centuries have been able to follow our Lord in offering up this prayer at the end of their life in complete trust in the Heavenly Father’s care. David’s prayer, however, encapsulates all of life: “My times are in Your hand” (v. 15). All of our days and times, our whole life, every moment, is in the hands of our Heavenly Father. And those who take refuge in Him will never be put to shame! Rejoice and be glad in His steadfast love and faithfulness! *Guide me, O Lord, to commend my life and days to You. Amen.*

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