



“The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 86:1-3, 4, 6, 15-16**

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
 You are my God; save Your servant who / trusts in You!
 Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
 for I cry to You / all day long.
 Rejoice the soul of Your / servant,*
 for to You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.
 Give ear, O Lord, / to my prayer;*
 and attend to the voice of my suppli- / cations.
 You, O Lord, are a God full of com- / passion,*
 oh, turn to me, and have mercy up- / on me!
 Give Your strength to Your / servant,*
 and save the son of Your / maidservant.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:114**
 “You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church, and because she cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve her evermore by Your help and 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
In God, My Faithful God TLH 526, LSB 745
 Sigismund Weingartner



1. In God, my faithful God,
 I trust when dark my road;
 Tho' many woes o'ertake me,
 Yet He will not forsake me.
 His love it is doth send them
 And, when 'tis best, will end them.
2. My sins assail me sore,
 But I despair no more;
 I build on Christ, who loves me;
 From this Rock nothing moves me.
 To Him I all surrender,
 To Him, my soul's Defender.
3. If death my portion be,
 Then death is gain to me
 And Christ my Life forever,
 From whom death cannot sever.
 Come when it may,
 He'll shield me,
 To Him I wholly yield me.

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 September 17-23, 2023

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Confidence in God Wrought by the Spirit

The Lord gives us His Word so that we would be brought to faith, preserved against evil and wickedness, instructed in righteous living, guarded against false doctrine, and ultimately, so that we would be forgiven our sins and brought into everlasting life. This is the purpose of the scriptures. And He gives them not only to our minds and hearts, but also to our lips, so that we would speak these beautiful words to others, that many would rejoice, and that in the resurrection we would have many neighbors.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24-34 – First Things First

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” There’s a great temptation to believe that we need to work out all the details of our life. We think that God grants us faith, but then is unconcerned with the day-to-day reality. So we end up putting aside God’s kingdom and His righteousness to pursue the sources of all our anxieties. We seek the perishable and fading while neglecting the holy and eternal. The Lord reminds us that He does care about our daily bread. He gives food and clothing to the birds and the flowers, and He cares more for us than for them. He, after all, did not become a bird or flower, but man, to redeem us from our sins, and He will, in His kindness, also give us all we need for this body and life. *Lord, thank You for caring for me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Ps 119, fifteenth part (SAMEKH v113-120) - Shielded from Evil

As we journey through this life, we undoubtedly encounter many instances of evil and wickedness. We see the world, encouraged by the devil, chasing after false Gods, calling good evil and evil good, and seeking to destroy all that is good and beautiful and true. But the Lord guards us from evil. He shields us, hides us, sends the evil doers away from us, and He does this especially through His Word. He gives us His Word to abide in so that though the world and the devil might seek to persecute and destroy our bodies, our lives, our eternal lives, are hidden with Him in Christ. We abide with Christ through His Word and thereby Christ also abides with us, and we are shielded from all evil eternally. *Lord, thank you for keeping me in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:25-6:10 – Sowing Good Things

You reap what you sow. This is wisdom that even the world knows, but it comes from the Lord. If we sow envy, conceit, wickedness; if we sow discontent in the Lord’s Word and promises; if we sow unbelief, then we will reap the same. What we put into the ground, or better yet, what we place into our hearts, minds, and consciences, will inevitably grow up and flourish. So we are encouraged to sow, plant, and cultivate the good things. These include faith, righteousness, sanctification, God’s Word, and good works. In that we will see an abundance of the same grow up in our lives together, giving us much opportunity to do good, especially in the household of faith. *Lord, help me to sow Your Word and truth in my mind, heart, and conscience. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 – A Word on Our Lips

God gives His Word to us not just for our own minds. He doesn’t give us His Word just so that it sits in our heads and gets stuck there. He gives us His Word so that it would produce in us a lively and active faith. Faith is implanted in our minds and hearts, and then flows out of our lips. And He especially gives us these words to implant into the hearts and minds of our children, to our own households. The primary thing we are talking about, meditating on, rejoicing in, and living out is His Word. From our waking up to our laying down and every moment in between. This, so that not only ourselves but also our entire home would be brought to faith. *Lord, help me to teach diligently Your Word to those You have entrusted to me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:9-13 – Calling the Sick

Why did Jesus come? That’s a fundamental question of the faith. Why did Jesus put on our flesh and blood, suffer, die, rise, and ascend? He did this to call and heal the sick. And not just any sickness, the root sickness. A parallel question is this: Why do we get sick, suffer, and die? Why do our bodies not work the way they should? It is because we’re sick with sin. This illness pervades every aspect of our being. So Jesus comes, as our eternal physician, to give us the remedy: His death, His blood, His resurrection. That is the medicine that heals our ailment. His redemption brings us to eternal health, granting us, not just long life here, but eternal life with Him. *Lord, thank You for healing my sin through Your death and resurrection. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-39 – Always about Jesus

What is the primary topic of the scriptures? How you answer this will greatly affect how you read and apply God’s Word. If the scriptures are chiefly about you and what you need to be doing, then all the texts will take on that reality. But if the scriptures are about someone else, if they are about the Lord’s Work of redeeming us from sin and death and rescuing from the devil, especially in the person and work of Jesus, then our reading and application of them will reflect that. “About whom does the prophet say this?” “Jesus” says Phillip. And he’s right. For as our Lord Himself reminds us: “You read the scriptures for you believe that in them you have life, and it is they that testify of me.” *Lord, help me to always see Jesus in the scriptures. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 – Rightly Ordered Fear

In order for us to rightly take refuge in the Lord, we must first begin by recognizing that we should, rightly, be afraid of Him. He is, after all, the One who has by a word created all things. He’s the One who has taken humanity into Himself in Christ. He’s the One who promises to make our bodies His dwelling place. He’s the One who destroys the wicked and preserves the righteous. He alone can cast both body and soul into hell; and He alone can bring the dead to live eternally in paradise. So we stand before the Lord recognizing that He rules and governs all things, and for that we should fear Him, but then also recognizing that He promises us His mercy, and for that we love and trust in Him. *Lord, keep me in the fear, love, and trust of You. Amen.*

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