

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 91:15-16, 1-2, 9-10, 13**

He shall call upon Me, and I will | answer him;*
I will deliver him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him,*
and show him My sal- | vation.”
He who dwells in the secret place of the | Most High*
shall abide under the shadow of the Al- | mighty.
I will say | of the Lord,*
“He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him | I will trust.”
Because you have made the Lord, who is my | refuge,*
even the Most High, your | dwelling place,
No evil shall be- | fall you,*
nor shall any plague come near your | dwelling.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 18:11 NKJV**
“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; 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 **God the Father, Be Our Stay**

TLH 247, LSB 505
Martin Luther



(verse 1) God the Father, be our Stay,
(v2) Jesus Christ, be Thou our Stay,
(v3) Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,
Oh, let us perish never.
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us life forever.
Keep us from the Evil One;
Uphold our faith most holy,

Grant us to trust Thee solely
With humble hearts and lowly.
Let us put God's armor on:
With all true Christians running
Our heavenly race and shunning
The devil's wiles and cunning.
Amen, Amen, this be done,
So sing we, Hallelujah!



“He Suffered Temptation by Satan”

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: He Suffered Temptation by Satan

This week begins the holy season of Lent, and we dwell during this time on what the Lord has endured for us that we would be saved. We also pray for wisdom to follow after our Lord in all godly affections and good works that we would not be unprofitable servants but, awakened by His forgiveness and love, perform those things which He has prepared for us to do.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11 Power for Others

It might strike us as odd that Jesus would refrain from feeding Himself when He had the power to do so. There is nothing inherently sinful or wrong about eating in itself. So why is this a temptation for Jesus? Satan does not tempt Jesus with food so much as with the thought that power, even the power to turn stones to innocuous bread, is for the *self*. Throughout Jesus' life, His divine authority is only used for others and not for Himself. In this way He suffers the temptation at which we all fail. We use our powers and authorities for ourselves and those we love. But Christ undergoes this temptation for His *enemies*, overcomes, and bestows that victory to us, His Christians. *Jesus, You have endured and won forgiveness for me. Teach me too to use my power for others. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32 Destruction Comes

Some years ago a river flooded the town in which I live. Roads, bridges, houses, were washed away in a raging torrent of water. There was nothing that could stop it. You could only just get out of the way. In today's psalm David borrows the image of the flood as an image of life's troubles. They are inevitable. Death, suffering, heartache, sorrows, are sure to come, unstoppable as the raging flood. And yet in the midst of that flood, there is help – *surely in a flood of great waters, they shall not come near him* (v.6). And why is this? *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered* (v.1). Forgiveness of sins brings life and comfort, though the floods rage around you. *You are my hiding place, You preserve me from trouble. Amen. (v.7)*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Commending Ourselves

Commending oneself, putting forward one's words and works as being of something of special magnificence is thought to be rude in our culture (though that doesn't stop us from doing so). And yet this is exactly what Paul does here. He is bold to boast of his imprisonments, his fastings, his constant labor for the Gospel, his honor and dishonor. How can he do this? Because he doesn't want favor. He is bold to boast in all things precisely because *he does not care what others think*. Christ has forgiven him his sins and given him a task so that he is bold, confident even, to commend himself. The same is true for you, dear reader. Forgiven, you too have a task, and may Christ give you such boldness. *Lord, strengthen me for my work, and make me bold. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-24 Hiding in Sin

In shame Adam and Eve hid from God. In shame they even hid from each other, covering up those parts meant for the other. This is what sin does. It destroys relationships so that we look askance at God and each other. God hadn't changed from chapter 2, but they now fear Him. We see this play out in our own lives. Our sin makes us avoid God and His Church. Our shame makes us retreat inward, hating even our own self and even avoiding those we love. See what sin does to us? Dear reader, let Christ break the inward retreat. Receive His forgiveness for free. Your God is reconciled to you in Christ's cross. No more fear.

No more hiding. You are loved. *Lord Jesus, cover me in Your righteousness that I would stand without fear before You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-32 Benefactors

Benefactor literally means a "well-doer". Jesus says that the unbelievers have bosses and lords who tell others what to do, and that they *are* called "benefactors". He does not say that they are benefactors, that is, well-doers, as if good works and acts of service could be done by proxy. Just because you run a non-profit philanthropy doesn't mean you are not obligated to use your own hands to serve others. Good works are done by those who have been set free by Christ's forgiveness. The apostles were to serve their brethren regardless of rank or prestige. Jesus does this too. He stoops down to serve you, dear Christian, with the gospel of grace. He is your Lord, yet deigns to call you brother. *Lord, help me to serve as You have served me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 1:2-15 Wisdom

Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And lift up your voice for understanding. If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; (Prov. 2:3-6 NKJV)* James utters here the same promise that God gives from Proverbs. If you lack wisdom (and who can say that he has perfect wisdom?) that God will graciously give it to those who ask in faith (vs.6). He gives it liberally and without reproach (vs.5) just like the forgiveness of sins. So, ask. Do it. Pray that God would strengthen your spiritual life in His wisdom, bringing you closer to Himself. That's His promise. *Open my ears to wisdom! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 16 A Good Inheritance

The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; Yes, I have a good inheritance. (vs.6 NKJV). Generally for us, inheritances are given to offspring at the death of a parent or relative. But the inheritance which David speaks of is not that which he received from Jesse, lest it be his instruction in the fear of the Lord. For that is the inheritance of the godly – to have no other good in life besides the Lord (vs.1). What is your chief good? What is your inheritance? What is it that you will give to your children? With Christ there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore (vs.11). This is your inheritance and theirs. Your baptismal birthright. For Christ your Lord has died and given you the godly inheritance of His everlasting love and mercy. *Lord, thank You for this! Amen.*

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