

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 54:4-5, 1-3, 7

Behold, God is my / helper;*
the Lord is with those who up- / hold my life.
He will repay my enemies for their / evil.*
Cut them off / in Your truth.
Save me, O God, / by Your name,*
and vindicate me / by Your strength.
Hear my / prayer, O God;*
give ear to the words / of my mouth.
For strangers have risen up a- / gainst me,*
they have not set God be- / fore them.
He has delivered me out of all / trouble;*
and my eye has seen its desire upon my / enemies.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 16:9

“And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
One Thing's Needful; Lord, This Treasure

TLH 366, LSB 536
Johann H. Schroeder



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| <p>1. One thing's needful; Lord this treasure
Teach me highly to regard;
All else, though it first give pleasure,
Is a yoke that presses hard.
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and
striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriv-
ing.
The gain of this one thing all loss can
requite
And teach me in all things to find true
delight.</p> | <p>6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful,
Turn from all created things
Unto Jesus and be heedful
Of the blessed joy He brings.
For where God and Man both in one
are united,
With God's perfect fullness the heart is
delighted;
There, there is the worthiest lot and
the best,
My One and my All and my Joy and my
Rest.</p> |
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“Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts”

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 July 29-August 4, 2018

THEME OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

Jesus frequently taught His disciples about the proper use of possessions. The sinful flesh desires to use goods and possessions for personal improvement. Despite the fact that we clearly cannot take any of it with us, we often fall prey to these sinful desires. Christ crucifies those sinful desires, and in the waters of Holy Baptism, fashions a new man. The new man desires to use his possessions for the good of his neighbor. He realizes that it's of much greater worth to use earthly possessions to create eternal friends who will welcome him into heaven than it is to live in earthly luxury.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9 — Eternal Friends

Jesus concludes the Parable of the Dishonest Manager telling His disciples to use their earthly possessions to make eternal friends. Your earthly wealth will fail you—if not during your life, certainly at its close. And when your Lord calls you home, it will not be your wealth that welcomes you. Your retirement will be left for your children to squabble over. The home will slowly decay. But eternal friends—those who through your use of earthly possessions were able to receive the Gospel—will welcome you into eternal dwellings with Christ. *Heavenly Father, thank You for providing for our needs; help us to use our wealth to make eternal friends.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:28 — Not be Served, but to Serve

Christ came to serve the least worthy of being served—you and me. He—who alone had every right to demand we serve Him—chose to serve us, sinners great and small, instead. Made holy by His service and servanthood, we now desire what He desires. He calls us to serve those among whom He has placed us. He gives us earthly wealth that we might use it to serve our neighbors. For example, God blessed me with a wife and six children; I cannot simply do what I want with my possessions but must serve them, my nearest neighbors. He became a servant to me, making me holy, so I likewise might desire to serve my neighbors. *Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ for becoming the least and servant of all—even me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:13 — Temptations of Money

Many hear this passage from 1 Corinthians as a promise that God will not allow any evil to befall them. The passage, however, only promises that Christ will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can endure—and He will provide a way of escape. As we deal with the temptations of possessions and wealth—and frequently fall for them—the way of escape does not occur in our efforts at extricating ourselves, but in the Absolution. In that forgiveness, Christ extricates us from sin and gives us His perfect obedience. He is the way out as He delivers His gifts in Word and Sacraments. *Lord Jesus Christ, who overcame all temptations for our sake, preserve us this day from the temptations of the Evil One and keep us steadfast by Your gifts. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 29:10–13 — All From the Hand of God

Everything—power, riches, might, greatness, etc.—comes from the hand of God. Grasping this truth leads us to our knees in two ways, first to confess our failure. We fail to use what He gives us in god-pleasing ways. We choose our own selfish desires rather than what makes eternal friends. For example, rather than teach our children the faith, we choose to watch TV or work a few more hours to advance a little further. Secondly, we give thanks to God, who gives us our possessions in spite of our sinfulness. Why? Because we are His children in Holy Baptism and He works all for the good of those who love Him. *Heavenly Father, thank You for providing for all my needs of body and soul. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:33b — Eternal Treasure

The return of Christ does not depend on your retirement packages. The Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour. Those who are His eternal friends He will welcome into eternal paradise. In a broad sense, we are faithful stewards when we set out the treasures God has given us in proper measure, as we use our resources to teach our children and grandchildren, as we serve our parents and siblings as they age or experience ill health. We make eternal friends when we witness to the hope we have in Christ Jesus to the world around us. *Heavenly Father, make us ready servants who use wealth not simply for our own amusement and pleasure, but also to serve our neighbor in need. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:13–14 — Guard the Good Deposit

We put our earthly money in banks so that the deposit might be guarded against theft and robbery. As Jesus reminded us yesterday, banks will ultimately fail also; the thief can always break in and steal. So also the good deposit given to St. Timothy. When it is not protected, Satan seeks to steal it or twist it. But when we faithfully guard and share this pure deposit—unlike bank deposits—the greater it grows. Faithful guarding of this deposit might mean imprisonment and persecution. But Christ promises that wherever this good deposit is guarded, it will not return to Him empty. *Almighty Father, thank You for the good deposit of Your Word which You have entrusted to Your church, and keep us, we pray, ever faithful to it. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:23–24 — See if there by any Grievous Way in Me

How can we say that? Throughout the last week we reflected on our selfishness. The old man often tempts us to please ourselves and use our resources not for the eternal benefit of our neighbor, but for the fleeting momentary pleasures of this life. And yet, today we pray, "See if there be any grievous way in me." You can pray that because you pray it in Christ. He made you His eternal friend. While your family and friends who died in the faith will welcome you to heaven, their presence pale in comparison with Him who made you not only His friend, but His brother—an eternal brother by His death for your sins. *Forgiving Father, thank You for making us Your children and fellow heirs of Christ Jesus through His death and resurrection for us. Amen.*

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