

“The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49**

The Lord was / my support.*
 In the day of my ca- / lamity
 He brought me out into a / broad place;*
 He delivered me because He delight- / ed in me.
 I will love You, O / Lord, my strength.*
 The Lord is my rock and my / fortress.
 For You will save the humble / people,*
 but will bring down / haughty looks.
 As for God, His way is / perfect;*
 the word of the Lord is / proven;
 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the / Gentiles,*
 and sing praises / to Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 1:64**

“And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Oh, How Great is Your Compassion

TLH 384, LSB 559
 Johann Olearius



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| <p>1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
 Faithful Father, God of grace,
 That with all our fallen race
 And in our deep degradation
 Thou wast merciful that we
 Might be saved eternally!</p> | <p>3. And for this our soul's salvation
 Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
 In Thy Sacraments and Word.
 He imparts true consolation,
 Granteth us the gift of faith
 That we fear nor hell nor death.</p> |
| <p>2. Thy great love for this hath striven
 That we may from sin be free
 And forever live with Thee;
 Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
 And extends an earnest call
 To His Supper unto all.</p> | <p>4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,-
 Truth doth evermore abide,-
 Then in Thee I will confide.
 Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
 My salvation is to me
 Well assured eternally.</p> |

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 June 21-27, 2020

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Spirit's Call to Fellowship with God

When hard times come where do we turn? Do we doubt and lose our voice of hope like Zechariah? Running away from God's grace, do we take for granted all we have and miss the invitation to God's heavenly banquet? We should not run! We should, by God's help, give voice to our hope. We should live submersed in God's Word of the Gospel which promises that Jesus has come to save us. His cross and resurrection are not just historical realities. They are certainly that, but they are also historical realities that are FOR US. God is our strength and shield. His Word defends us from all adversity by being Himself our rock and fortress by the forgiveness of sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:16-24 A Gracious Invitation

Those who have much take it for granted and those who have little often appreciate everything they receive. Thus after those who were originally invited reject the invitation to the banquet because they had better things to do, the master invites the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. He invites the foreigners and sojourners on the highways and sleeping under the hedges. They hear the gracious invitation with joy and come. We pray that the Holy Spirit through the Holy Scriptures grants us faith to receive the invitation and teaches us to appreciate the invitation to be at Christ's banquet. *Lord, we thank You for the invitation. Help us to be faithful. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16 Good Biblical Meditation

The Psalmist meditates, it's true. However, his meditation is not like the mystics'. Eastern religion teaches meditation as an emptying of one's self, which is in opposition to how a Christian studies God's Word. Biblically understood and according to the Christian meaning; God's Word fills a person up as that person hears and ponders God's Law and Gospel. Meditation is gaining greater understanding of how Jesus is the Life of the world and the Light of men. It is the enlightenment of the soul which recognizes Jesus as the very Word of God who came into the world to save us. *Holy Spirit, bless us with the true meditation of faith as we are filled up by God's Word of Holy Scripture. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:13-18 Abide in Christ

This text teaches that "anyone who does not love, abides in death." This goes along with the reality John shares with us, that "God is love." Understand plainly, the *agape* love which the Scripture teach must first be perfectly understood by faith through the cross of Jesus. As St. John says, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). It is the cross that shows us God's love and heart. Unless we abide in Christ crucified by faith, we abide in death. He is Savior of the world. If we abide in him, not only do we have salvation for ourselves, we gain hearts to love our neighbor. *Lord Jesus, remind us that You are our life, and You are self-sacrificial Love at work within us. Lead us by faith in You to everlasting life. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80 A Voice to Bless

In preceding texts, Zechariah loses his voice for his lack of faith in God's message. When his voice comes back, notice the words that come from his mouth. His words are now faithful blessing toward God, instead of faithlessness. He writes "His name is John." This matters because it is what God had given him to say. Next, he prophecies about John the Baptist's office and ministry to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus, the Savior of the world. *Lord, lead our mouths to speak the words You give us to speak. Take away the mute words of complaint and envy, and give us words to speak about Christ. Prepare us each and every moment to proclaim Jesus, Messiah, Savior of the world. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35 Christ Above All

How can anyone truly renounce all that they have? How can we ever fulfill this in order to become Jesus' disciples? We don't have the strength. Only by God's grace and faith can this happen in our hearts and lives. Think about it another way. To understand Christ as supreme is to know and understand that nothing on earth saves. When Jesus ascends into the heavens, He rules all and is given all authority in heaven and on earth. This means all things are brought into subjection to Him. Or in other words, to hold fast to Jesus by faith, by the power of God's Word, is to renounce everything that's not Christ, our only help and salvation. *Lord, help us to see all that You have made as tools to proclaim Your cross and resurrection, that all may be forgiven Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:14-22 Hot or Cold for Christ?

As His Church, does Jesus find us hot or cold? Are we zealous for service to God and our neighbor or have we forgotten our first love? Worse, are our hearts lukewarm in God's sight? Has church become another place like any other, just another place to go? God's Law takes our spiritual temperature. It shows our hearts are slow to believe and sick with sin. But the medicine of the Gospel revives us and makes us zealous to confess our Lord's name and to serve our neighbor. *Lord Jesus, we see each and every time your people gather that Your power is at work in a mighty way to forgive. Rekindle our faith and fervor in service to You that we may rejoice in whatever challenges may come our way. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 28 Safe in the Lord

This Psalm calls the Lord our strength and our shield, even a saving heritage. How do you see God? Some see Him as someone who will take away their fun, and one who limits them to a boring life of minding the rules. The truth is that God comes to us in Christ Jesus never to take away our joy, but He comes "that we might have life and have it to the fullest." A full life is one where we feel safe as the children of God. This Psalm reminds each of us that we are indeed safe in the Gospel. *Lord Jesus bless us with a confident hope that no matter what happens, we are safe, for You are our shield and heritage. Amen.*

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