



5 **PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 13:5-6, 1-4**
 O Lord, I have trusted in Your / mercy;*
 my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- / vation.
 I will sing / to the Lord,*
 because He has dealt bountiful- / ly with me. (Psalm 13:5-6)
 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for- / ever?*
 How long will You hide Your / face from me?
 How long shall I take counsel / in my soul,*
 how long will my enemy be exalted / over me?
 Consider and hear me, O / Lord my God;*
 enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the / sleep of death;
 lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed a- / gainst him”;*
 lest those who trouble me rejoice when / I am moved.

6 **SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 16:31**
 “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”

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

8 **PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK**
 O God, the Strength of all those who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us the help of Your grace that in keeping Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 **PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

10 **SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK** TLH 292, LSB 585
Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide Nikolaus Selnecker



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| <p>1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
 For round us falls the eventide;
 Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
 For us be ever veiled in night.</p> <p>2. In these last days of sore distress
 Grant us, dear Lord, true
 steadfastness
 That pure we keep, till life is spent,
 Thy holy Word and Sacrament.</p> | <p>4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
 The guile and rage of Satan stay!
 Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
 Give concord, patience, courage, peace.</p> <p>9. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
 We here may live and die, dear Lord;
 And when our journey endeth here,
 Receive us into glory there.</p> |
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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: The Spirit's Words in Holy Scripture

The Spirit has been poured out for us (liturgically speaking) on the Day of Pentecost a few weeks ago. We have confessed the Spirit-given truth of the Holy Trinity on Trinity Sunday. And now this week we embrace and confess the Holy Spirit as given to us Christians through the Holy Scriptures. Through the Bible, God speaks to His people and gives to them what they need for their Christian life – the Law and the Gospel. These words are Spirit and life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 The Non-Power of Miracles

The rich man wanted to give his pagan brothers a spiritual experience they wouldn't forget. He begs Father Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers that they would see him and repent of their sins, like unto Jacob Marley appearing to Ebenezer Scrooge in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. But Father Abraham shows the rich man and us where the power of God is present to convert – Moses and the Prophets, the Holy Scriptures. Unless the brothers hear the Bible they will not be convinced "even if someone should rise from the dead." So with us. Let us hear God's Word and what it says about us that we would believe on Him Who is risen from the dead. *Lord Jesus, give to us Your Word of life that we may live. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80 – The Benedictus

Zechariah's prophetic song, often called the *Benedictus*, is prayed among us in the morning at Matins or at Lauds. It is well that we take Zechariah's words upon our lips. In keeping with our theme this week, we pray and confess that God has "spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets [the Bible] that we should be saved from our enemies." But what enemies? A few verses later, we hear that salvation will be given us "in the forgiveness of sins." John would bear witness to Christ, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. That is the Word. He has defeated your enemies, sin, death and the devil. No one can accuse you. And so we sing "Blessed be the Lord..." *Father, keep this song upon the lips of Your Church always. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21 – God is Love

"We love because He first loved us." Man cannot love in truth without the love of God. All the affection that we may have for even our family is incomplete without the righteousness of faith. For the love of God, received by faith, perfects the love we have for God and for each other "that we may have confidence in the day of judgement." (vs. 17). To be certain, our love is not outwardly perfect in ourselves this side of glory, but because of the confidence we have in Christ Jesus, Who has forgiven our sins and brought us into His kingdom through His sacrifice and resurrection, we do and can love one another. We love because He first loved us. *Lord Jesus, forgive me my sins and help me by Your Spirit to love You and my brother. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24 – What Delights God?

We sinful men take great stock in our abilities and assets. We pride ourselves in how smart, winsome, strong, or clever we think we are, and believe others should honor us because of them too. At our most crass, we even believe that God delights in us because of these things, that they prove God's delight for us. Or, on the other hand, we might think a lack of these things prove God's displeasure in us. Both of these notions are simply self-worship. What delights God? What should a man boast in? "That he understands and knows [God]...who practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness in the earth." Which is to say, God delights that men know and call upon His name in faith. *Lord God, I trust in You. May I never boast in anything save Your Name. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 – Rich Fools

Our Lord demonstrates the futility of the way we sinners think. Richness in the world's terms involves ample money and goods, time to relax, eat, drink and be merry. These things are not bad in themselves, indeed the Christian has good cause to be at peace, and receive God's gifts with thanksgiving. But for that soul that has not faith in the God of mercy, the gifts of this creation are turned into goods in and of themselves, apart from their gracious Giver. And on the day that our souls are required of us, what good are these things? No, we must trust in Jesus and His mercy, for only in His forgiveness can we have eternal salvation and true peace both now and in eternity. *Lord Jesus, make me seek the higher things, that I may be with You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 – Contentment

This reading is related to the one from yesterday where we encountered the folly of the rich fool, who trusted in his riches for his security. Here, Paul teaches Pastor Timothy the same thing – namely, that he should instruct his congregation not only to pursue godliness through faith in Christ, but also contentment with what they have. For the desire to be rich in material things may cause Christians to wander away from the faith or be pierced with many pangs (vs. 10). God would have us not seek after wealth but be content with what we have, losing wealth just as easily as we receive it, trusting not in our own wealth, but in the wealth we have laid up in heaven with God. *Lord Jesus, make me a humble and content servant. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-20 – Who Do You Say That I Am?

The Father reveals the Son, in the power of the Spirit, through the word of God. When St. Peter makes his great confession upon which the Church would be built "you are the Christ, the Son of the living God" Jesus reveals to him and to us that this confession did not originate in Peter. He did not come to this confession by process of elimination, or through the penetrating philosophies of men. He was able to confess the Christ because the Father in heaven revealed it to him. So it is today. The Father reveals the Son in the power of the Spirit, through the Word of God as read and preached into your ears. Take heed of the Word, and by faith, you too, like St. Peter, are accounted as blessed. *Lord Jesus, give to us Your Word always. Amen.*

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