



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.

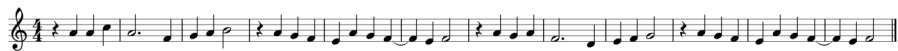
6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 16:31**
 [Jesus] said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.”

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
Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide TLH 292, LSB 585
 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>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>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>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> |

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 Holy Spirit comforts sinners by making the mysteries of the Holy Trinity known, especially the conversation between the Father and Son who continually converse about your salvation. The Holy Spirit publishes these conversations in Scripture. Jesus insists that unless you receive this Spirit-filled Word by faith, then no number of signs, proofs, testimonials, or experiences will convince you to repent. The Word alone has the promise of being the Spirit's voice. Where the prophets, apostles, and evangelists continue to preach, God breathes His life into sinners' dead souls. He revives them with His promises of mercy for Jesus' sake.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 "The Soul after Death"

What happens when I die? Will I float around like a ghost? Will I cease to exist? How do I avoid hell and get into heaven? Jesus answers these questions in His story about Lazarus. This isn't a ghost story. At the moment of death, the angels take the Christian's soul to heaven. The man who worships money suffers hell. The difference is based on faith. The rich man begs Abraham to send a resurrected Lazarus to convince his five brothers to repent. But faith doesn't come by seeing. "They have Moses and the Prophets" Abraham says. "Let them hear them." Indeed! *Dear Lord, by Your Spirit grant me faith to hear Moses and the Prophets as they comfort with the forgiveness of sins and eternal life for Christ's sake. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:1-8 "To Walk in the Law of the Lord"

The Holy Spirit makes us holy from baptism to the moment of death, not just when we first hear and believe the Gospel. The Scriptures are His means to accomplish sanctification. You're never going to outgrow them. The Bible, the Spirit's voice, unfolds the majesty of God's heart by teaching Law and Gospel. For the saints, the Spirit redeems God's Law and shows that works done according to the commandments are like jewels that adorn the white garments of Christ's righteousness. All of this is to say that only a Christian, whose conscience has been set free by the forgiveness of sins, who is saved by faith, can pray Psalm 119 and mean it. *Bless me and make my way blameless, O Lord, that I may delight in Your commandments. Amen.*

TUE

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

The simplicity and beauty of St. John's sermon mocks the speculative games that the theologians are tempted to play. What's required of a Christian isn't that he arrives at a pure definition of God's being or articulates the inviolable proof of God's existence. It's that he repeats the child-like phrases of the Bible which teach God's love for the world through His Son. When we trust that Jesus has died for us, we gain confidence for the day of judgment. Faith casts out any fear of that day. What's to fear? We are baptized. Fear of this world tempts us with hate and envy. But knowing Jesus' forgiveness teaches us to love even as God first loved us. *Grant me faith in Your love, O Lord, that my conscience may be clean and confident for the day of judgement. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24 "Let Him Who Boasts..."

Wisdom, strength, and riches. These are more noble idols than the crass statues to Baal or Dagon, but they're idols nonetheless. As the first commandment teaches, a false god is anything that misplaces our fear, love, and trust. Not only do idols demand false faith, they require a kind of liturgical worship through our boasting. Boasting in carved images is silly. But boasting in wisdom? What's wrong with that? Dear saint, the wisdom, strength, and riches of man ultimately fail. They neither save from sin nor resurrect from the dead. Jesus alone saves you. He forgives your sins and gives you hope. If you're going to boast, boast in our Lord who "practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth." *I boast in Your mercy, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 "Your Soul is Required of You"

What kind of man would ask our Redeemer to settle some petty score between him and his brother? We might be indignant, but our hearts are often just as twisted with loyalties to mammon. Covetousness and the abundance of possessions demand worry and fear. They promise ease and comfort if we succeed in acquiring that magic amount which is just out of reach. Even if we do obtain everything we desire, what then? Jesus says to "watch out" since our souls might be demanded of us at any moment. What becomes of the world then? It's lost to us. Jesus gives you greater and lasting treasures. He gives you resurrection and eternal life. Hear his Word. Find your comfort there. *Grant me faith to treasure Your mercy, O Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 "Rich in Christ and Good Works"

Be rich in good works, not in stuff. Money isn't the root of evil, but loving it is. This misplaced love can trap your heart. St. Paul explains that even though some possessed the greater gifts of the Holy Spirit and eternal life, their flesh betrayed them. They judged the wealth of this bodily life to be more important. They wandered away. "But as for you, O man of God, flee these things." Learn from the Scriptures to treasure Jesus and the saving trust that is already yours through Baptism. Make the good confession. Take hold of eternal life. The Lord may yet bless you with riches. God can make us rich or poor in a day. *O Lord, teach me to set my hope in Your mercy given me through Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 "Not One of Them is Broken"

This psalm preaches the crucifixion and Christian comfort. Jesus, in verse 19, is called "the Righteous." Despite His sufferings of body and soul, His heavenly Father vindicated His Son's atonement. He preserved His body from destruction, kept all His bones from being broken (John 19:36), and resurrected His Son on the 3rd day. Christ's vindication is now your own. God's love for you, bought with the priceless treasure of His Son's blood, is established forever. Nothing can undo Jesus' cross or resurrection. You are the Lord's servant. He has put His name on you in Baptism. Boast in the Lord, O saint! "The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned." *Thanks be to You, O Lord, for my redemption. Amen.*

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