



“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11

Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-
kindnesses,*
for they are | from of old.
Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!
To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
do not remember the sins | of my youth;*
according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.
Good and upright | is the Lord;*
therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.
For Your name's | sake, O Lord,*
pardon my iniquity, for | it is great.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Genesis 32:26
"I will not let You go unless You bless me."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength,
keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all
adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may
assault and hurt the soul; 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
When in the Hour of Utmost Need

TLH 522, LSB 615
Paul Eber



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| <p>1. When in the hour of utmost need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious
thought
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,</p> | <p>5. And thus we come, O God, today
And all our woes before Thee lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on every hand.</p> |
| <p>4. For Thou hast promised graciously
To hear all those who cry to Thee
Through Him whose name alone is
great,
Our Savior and our Advocate.</p> | <p>6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face,
Absolve us through Thy boundless
grace,
Be with us in our anguish still,
Free us at last from every ill.</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: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

Jesus tells the parable of a persistent widow who continually nagged an unrighteous judge for justice. Eventually he said, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice." In response Jesus asks, "And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night?" Of course! The Lord is righteous in all His ways. He is the Lord our Righteousness. "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" Faith is persistent also, persistent in holding God to His own Word. Like Jacob, grabbing God's heel and not releasing Him until He gave His blessing, faith grabs on to the Father through Christ and is not content until life, salvation, forgiveness, and every good gift are ours—not at our own request and earning, but at Christ's expense and gift.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28—Woman, Great is Your Faith

The disciples were given every teaching, every promise, and every advantage. The Canaanite woman had nothing but a rebuke and an insult from Jesus. Why, then, are the disciples so faithless and she so faithful? Perhaps it is the blessedness of affliction, cross, and suffering. These cause us to cling relentlessly to Christ. In any case, what is most distinguishing of saving faith is its persistence. It is bold to catch Jesus in any Word He's given, never letting go. Even Gentiles receive God's grace and mercy. *Lord, increase my faith and draw me to You by Your cross. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130—But With The Lord...

Trust in the Lord; there is mercy with Him. Because His redemption is plentiful, "trust" prays with boldness and confidence. "Listen up, God." "Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pressing, pushing, persistent supplications." With others we must buy, beg, borrow, steal, or trick. With the Lord we may simply cry out. If He were to mark iniquities, no one would stand, and no begging could possibly succeed. But with Him there is forgiveness. *Lord, redeem us from all iniquities and raise us from the depths. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8—God's Will & Word is Our Sanctification

St. Paul anticipates the objections of our Old Adam when he adds verse 8: "These aren't my words, but God's Word—the very God who gives the Holy Spirit." The will of God includes our sanctification. He has called us not to impurity, but in and for holiness. He has called us to self-control and self-mortification with repentance. To carry on a life of manifest and impenitent sin grieves the Holy Spirit Who gives faith and life. Thus, God warns. The Old Adam must die. God has called us into His holiness. *Lord, cleanse my heart, that I may be holy as You are holy. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25—Righteous in the Lord or Nowhere

"Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord." Those who were incensed against Him will bow their knees in shame. The Israel of God shall be justified and shall glory in Him. His Word has gone out in righteousness, sworn by Himself: the Lord our Righteousness, Jesus Christ—and there's none other God! Of Him all will say, "only in the Lord are righteousness and strength." That is a truth that the unbelieving dash themselves against. For us who are being saved it is a delight: He is our righteousness. *Lord, deliver me in Your righteousness, and never let me be ashamed of my hope. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29—How Long?

Jesus seems almost frustrated. Can we ever know what a burden it must be for the sinless Son of God to come into our corrupted world, endure our faithlessness and the devil's designs at work in the men once created in His own image? Thanks be to God, Jesus does in fact bear it, and willingly. The question is not if He can. Compassion is what moves Jesus, always! And what of our faithlessness, which clings close to our flesh and shrouds our faith, seemingly "always" as well? Take up this father's prayer: *Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20—The Body of Christ Lives by Faith

James paints the picture of the body of Christ at its best—though not what we'd expect. This body needs constant compassion in both body and soul. Suffering, but bearing it in prayer. Receiving care in the name of the Lord in sickness and in health. Above all, living in the forgiveness of sins. In this world, the church is never without sinners. What keeps her from hypocrisy is that she confesses and forgives, one to another. She is ready to rescue those who wander from the truth. And she is constant in prayer, because faith knows that it must receive everything from Christ. *Lord, preserve Your church. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25—Pardon, Peace, & Integrity

Psalm 25 is a good remedy to the accusation that "the Church is full of hypocrites." It is first and foremost a confession of our sins. But it is also a plea that the Lord would guide us, lead us, teach us, instruct us, correct us, and sanctify us. Those who wait for the Lord, endure suffering, and bear hatred are not to do so in their sins, but in integrity and uprightness. By no means can their uprightness or integrity overcome their guilt. The Lord must pardon our sin, because it is great. That is what Christ has come for. This is Israel's redemption. *Lord, instruct me in the way You choose, and deliver me. Amen.*

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