

“He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Isaiah 66:10-11; Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8**

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad with her,\*  
 all you who | love her;  
 that you may feed and be | satisfied\*  
 with the consolation of her | bosom.  
 I was glad when they | said to me,\*  
 “Let us go into the house | of the Lord.”  
 Our feet have been | standing\*  
 within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!  
 Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem:\*  
 “May they prosper who | love you.”  
 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will | now say,\*  
 “Peace be with- | in you.”

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 145:16**  
 “You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who do  
 worthily deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may mercifully be  
 relieved by the comfort of Your grace; 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 **Jesus, Priceless Treasure**  
 TLH 347, LSB 743  
 Johann Franck



1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,  
 Fount of purest pleasure,  
 Truest Friend to me.  
 Ah, how long in anguish  
 Shall my spirit languish,  
 Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
 Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!  
 I will suffer naught to hide Thee,  
 Naught I ask beside Thee.

2. In Thine arms I rest me;  
 Foes who would molest me  
 Cannot reach me here.  
 Though the earth be shaking,  
 Every heart be quaking,  
 Jesus calms my fear.  
 Lightnings flash And thunders crash;  
 Yet, though sin and hell assail me,  
 Jesus will not fail me.

**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 March 22-28, 2020

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

The devil sets disease, desperation, and hopelessness before our eyes. He grabs our attention with news reports that strip away contentment and joy. The news has hit home. The pandemic has forced our churches to chop up service times or close doors. Our flesh feasts on the fear that the devil sets before it. It wants a healing savior now, not later. It says, "There's not money in the world to buy our way out of this mess." Jesus suffers our worldliness. He doesn't give us what our doubts deserve. When the time is right, when it's best for our repentance and faith, He preserves our bodies with daily bread and our souls with the comfort of His Gospel.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15 "He Said This to Test Him"

Jesus loved Philip. He loved him so much that when Philip couldn't fathom how the crowd could eat, Jesus didn't cast him off in favor of a more faithful disciple. Jesus tested him. Remember this. Testing comes from God's love (Hebrews 12:7). Jesus made Philip see the crowds, think about how much money could buy, and conclude that, by man's power, the crowds must go hungry. He did this to teach Philip that every good of body and soul, every rescue from disease and death, comes from Himself. Praise God! Right now, we're being tested. The severity of the cross may be stayed, or He may will it to increase. Either way, our hearts are taught to trust Jesus, our risen and ascended Savior. *Grant that this testing, O Lord, may benefit my soul. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46 "Present Help"

What joy to pray this Psalm today! Luther, who faced persecution from the pope, who faced plagues that wiped out greater percentages of people than COVID-19, who faced terrible attacks of false doctrine, found such solace in this psalm that it inspired him to author the battle hymn of the Reformation, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Dear saints, the harder the devil presses us, the greater the refuge Christ becomes. The devil screams about his victories when the church doors close, but he's judged. The deed is done. He has no place in God's city that's made glad by Jesus' atoning blood. He cannot stop the Word from saving us. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Be my refuge and strength, O Lord. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31 "Children of Freedom"

God has sent the pandemic to show us His anger. He sent it to show us what our sins deserve. Too often our Christianity tries to mix a bit of worldly indulgence, lust, gluttony, slander, and the like, with trust in Jesus. But Christ is not a servant of sin. Remember Mount Sinai. Remember the slavery under the law and its punishments. You've been set free from them! Why return to death? Now, through baptism, you are children of promise, children of the heavenly Jerusalem. You've been set free from God's anger. You've been set free from eternal punishments. That's why this pandemic will end. That's why you have the Gospel, the promise that Jesus' death has reconciled you with God. *Keep me in freedom, O Lord, by true repentance. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13 "Comfort in Exile"

We're living through a kind of exile. How are we supposed to feel when all the old staples of daily life are gone? The restaurants are closed. The streets are deserted of familiar sights and sounds. Our Lord has even taken away baseball. What if you get sick? What if you die? Read this passage, learn to lift your petitions to the Lord. Cry to Him in this hour of anguish. You might not see your rescue from all this, but your Lord sees. In Christ, it's already done. The day will come when He cries, "Come out from your houses! Appear from the shadows!" How much greater when our Lord shouts us out of our graves on the last day.

Your exile will end. All promises of comfort and compassion will be fulfilled. *Grant me faith in these promises, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51 "Bread of Life"

There is so much the Holy Spirit wants to teach us in these verses. People are desperate for worldly manna to eat in this wilderness. But all who eat bread in this life die. Not so with the heavenly manna of Jesus. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." Do you see how much your Father loves you? He has drawn you to greater bread than what you buy at Walmart, whose shelves are probably bare right now. He draws you to His Son in the flesh upon whom you feast by faith. You belong to Jesus. He won't let you go. Bread fails. Jesus raises up on the last day. *Grant me the bread of Your flesh, dear Jesus, that I live with You forever. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11 "Precious and Very Great Promises"

You can tell Peter must have been a captivating preacher. He has the heart of a shepherd eager to feed Christ's sheep. He sets the hearts of his hearers and readers on promises by which we become "partakers of the divine nature." He speaks greater things than our minds can understand. Christ Jesus, our ascended and glorified brother, has lifted our human nature to the heights of God's eternal power, His right hand. What this means for us, our hearts are yet too small to hold. But we believe it. We know we have it by faith in the precious and very great promises of Jesus' suffering and death by which we were cleansed from former sins. *Grant, O Lord, that I make every effort to supplement my saving faith with virtue granted by your Spirit. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 "Wonderful Knowledge"

From the moment of conception to the moment of your glorious resurrection from the grave, your God knows you. He knows you not according to His anger against your sins. That kind of knowledge would be terrifying. Instead, He knows you as one for whom His Son has died, a redeemed child and heir. There are times and trials that test this comfort. This is probably one of those times. But the present darkness is not dark to the Lord. "Even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You." The Lord is with you, dear saints. The light of Christ shines in your hearts no matter how dark the devil makes this world look. *I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works! Amen.*

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