

“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 **Mark 9:24**
 “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’”

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

This week, as we move into the heart of the Lenten season, we will be focusing on the value and the place of faith in our lives. Most importantly, we will see how faith is trusting in Jesus. This divinely implanted trust in Jesus draws us close to our Lord by finding refuge in His promises in every time of trouble. Our faith also spurs us to action in our good works and in our prayers. The work of the Holy Spirit granting us faith is something that we rejoice over and we pray for our gracious Father to strengthen us in our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 – The Works of Faith

“Great is your faith!” What a wonderful thing to hear from our Lord. How many of us would love to hear such praise from our Savior? In the text today, what did this woman do to garner such praise? Did she perform great acts of service or charity? Did she tell everyone she knew about Jesus? She did none of those things. She simply trusted Jesus to answer her prayer. She trusted and believed that Jesus could heal her daughter. This is faith in action. It isn’t always seen in big, grand actions or events. Sometimes it is simply doggedly following after Jesus, trusting that He will do what He has promised – to forgive our sins and to rescue us from every evil of body and soul. *I thank You, Lord, for the faith that You have granted to me. I ask that You would keep me in this faith and that through this faith, I may continually trust in You and Your mercy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 – Faith in Promises Kept

In this text today, we see again the trust that comes through faith. Even in our woe and time of trouble, our Lord hears us. These are words that are likely familiar to many as they are words that we say often in the liturgy. And yet, here we see them in their context and as a whole. These are words of a faith that trusts in God’s promise to hear His people. It is faith that trusts that God will cleanse us of our sins. It is faith that trusts in God’s steadfast love and plentiful redemption. These are all things that God has given to all of His people, even you! *O Lord, You do hear my prayers, for You are faithful. I praise You for all of the blessings You have lavished upon me and I ask that, through Your mercy, I would continue to live in trust of You. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 – Sanctification: Faith in Action

This text is significant because in it, Paul tells us the will of God. Did you catch it? Too often we worry and fret, wondering what the will of God is, as though it is something that He has hidden from us. But He hasn’t. God’s will is our sanctification. Sanctification simply put, is our growing in holiness. Paul gives us here a number of concrete examples of what that looks like. In essence, they boil down to us living out our faith. The salvation that is ours in Christ leads us to look and act in a way that reflects this truth. It doesn’t save us, as that is done already. Rather, we are free to live as God’s people. *O Lord, You have set me free from the toilsome works of the Law. Strengthen me in my service toward You and my neighbor. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25 – The Call to Faith

This text can be a bit intimidating. In this text, God is calling people to account for their sin and for idolatry. But within these stern words of judgement, the Lord’s desire to save His people is made clear. He calls us to turn to Him to be saved. Out of His mouth comes His Word that brings faith and life. Righteousness and strength belong to our Lord. And these are things that He shares with us through faith. He gives us His righteousness. He gives us His strength so that we can live in the sin-infested world. These are the gifts that God has given to you through faith. *Almighty God, Your power is great and worthy are You to be feared. Yet I come before You as a beggar and I know that in Your goodness, You will preserve me. For this I thank and praise You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29 – Struggling Faith

Have you ever gone through a time when it was hard to trust God in His promises, a time when His goodness seemed to be far away? This is not an uncommon problem. There are times when we often find ourselves reacting to Jesus much like the father in this text. “If you can,” we say to our Lord. If He can do this or do that, we would appreciate it. But Jesus makes it clear that He can do all things because he is Lord, the Son of God. That includes forgiving us of our sins and upholding us in our weakness. Jesus does not chastise the father here. He simply receives the plea for help and responds. *Lord, there are days when I too need You to help my unbelief. Please be with me and grant me Your aid throughout this day and all others. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20 – Prayer of Faith

In this text, we see faith given voice. The prayer of faith spoken of here is a prayer prayed over someone who is sick. It is the prayer of a believer who prays in faith of the Lord’s mercy. The faith that we pray in is a confidence in the promise that the Lord will raise us up. Whether He raises us from our sickbed in this life or He simply waits to raise us from the dead on the Last Day, we have sure confidence that Christ will raise us up. Truly, whether we live or we die, we are the Lord’s. Prayer gives voice to our faith, not only as we speak to God, but our prayers can also be a witness to those around us. *Hear my prayer for Your mercy, O Lord. I trust that You will give what You have promised. Bless me, that I will live forever in Your kingdom as I am in Your kingdom now. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 – Trusting in the Promises

This week we have looked at various aspects of faith. One thing that I hope you have taken away from this is that faith in essence is trust in the Lord to keep His promises. Faith is the assurance of what we hope for in Christ. In this Psalm, we see David’s words of trust in the mercies given to him by God. In the same way, we trust that God in His mercy will protect us, uphold us, and defend us from harm. Most importantly, by faith in the Gospel we know that God has redeemed us out of all of our troubles. *Gracious Lord, You have made many promises to me and I trust that You will keep Your promises, particularly Your promises to forgive my sins and to grant me eternal life. Amen.*

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