

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 130:4-5, 1-2, 7-8**

If You, Lord, should mark in- / iquities,*
O Lord, / who could stand?
But there is forgive- / ness with You,*
that You / may be feared.
Out of the depths I have cried to / You, O Lord;*
Lord, / hear my voice!
Let Your ears be at- / tentive*
to the voice of my suppli- / cations.
O Israel, hope / in the Lord;*
for with the Lord there is / mercy,
With Him is abundant re- / demption,*
and He shall redeem Israel from all his in- / iquities.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Philippians 1:6**

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, our Refuge and Strength, the Author of all godliness, be ready, we implore You, to hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker

TLH 34, LSB 820
Johann Gramann



1. My soul, now bless thy Maker!
Let all within me bless His name
Who maketh thee partaker
Of mercies more than thou dar'st
claim.
Forget Him not whose meekness
Still bears with all thy sin,
Who healeth all thy weakness,
Renews thy life within;
Whose grace and care are endless
And saved thee through the past;
Who leaves no sufferer friendless,
But rights the wronged at last.

4. God's grace alone endureth,
And children's children yet shall prove
How He with strength assureth
The hearts of all that seek His love.
In heaven is fixed His dwelling,
His rule is over all;
Angels, in might excelling,
Bright hosts, before Him fall.
Praise Him, who ever reigneth,
All ye who hear His Word,
Nor our poor hymns disdaineth-
My soul, oh, bless the Lord!



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: Resisting the Unforgiving Flesh

Holding a grudge against your brother or sister in the faith seems like such a small thing; “a little anger here and there certainly isn’t such a bad thing,” we subconsciously think. And yet that anger grieves the Holy Spirit and denies the partnership we have with our fellow believers in the gospel. God is faithful in both His blessing and His curse; let us then forgive from the heart as Christ calls us to do, for we have been forgiven in Christ. From that overflowing fountain of forgiveness, Christ works a good work in us, bringing it to completion on the last day when we will join with all the choirs of heaven singing God’s praise.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:23-35 — Forgiven from the Heart

“It’s just a little grudge. I’m sure I’ll get over it eventually,” you say to yourself. “He really deserves my frustration anyway.” Jesus speaks differently. You must forgive your brother from your heart. It’s not an optional activity for the Christian. The final words Christ uses to conclude the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew chapter six do not speak about the kingdom or daily bread, but rather forgiveness: “If you do not forgive others . . . neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.” The sinful flesh clings to the sins of others, even while the new man cries out for the strength to forgive. Only in the forgiveness you have received can you also forgive others. *Forgiving Father, purge my sinful flesh that I might gladly forgive those who sin against me. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:169-176 — The Cry of the New Adam

The old flesh clings to the sins of the neighbor. The new man created in Christ Jesus calls out to God for renewal and strength; it fights against the unforgiving flesh. Rather than lips pouring forth vitriol and anger against the neighbor, the new man pours forth praise to God. His tongue sings of God’s Word and regularly reads and recites the Word of God. The new man admits that at times, the unforgiving flesh has led him astray, and then the new man cries out to God, “seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.” *Heavenly Father, create in a me a clean heart, that I might not cling to the sins of my neighbor but gladly received understanding from Your Word and thereby forgive those who sin against me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:3-11 — Partnership in the Gospel

Christ fights the unforgiving flesh because He shares in a partnership with His fellow members of Christ’s body. This partnership includes a common goal—the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to the nations. It also includes the unity given only in the forgiving work of Christ. This partnership drives Christians to love more and more, first the fellow Christian and also those who do not yet belong to Christ’s kingdom. Thus, the Christian gladly forgives, for Christ who forgives the Christian will complete the work of forgiveness by working in the Christian to forgive those around him. *Father, thank You for the forgiveness You gave me in Jesus Christ, and bring to completion this work in me and help me to forgive those who sin against me. Amen*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:9-11 — God is Faithful

God blesses and curses. The curse demands that God punish all who hate Him. Those who refuse to forgive their brother declare their hatred of God. You cannot love God and hate your brother. God threatens to curse those who reject His forgiveness by rejecting their brother. God also blesses. His steadfast love and forgiveness is for those who love Him and keep His commandments—to thousands of generations! Christians crucify the sinful flesh and forgive those who sin against them. *Faithful God, forgive us for failing to forgive our brothers and sisters, and remain with us in Your steadfast love. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:1-20 — Gaining the Brother

Matthew 18 lays out how Christian brothers should approach each other when one has sinned against another. It’s instructive to note the purpose of this procedure—to gain the brother. How often have we approached a fellow brother or sister in Christ—according to Matthew 18—intent to show the brother what he’s done wrong and set him straight. But we should approach the brother with the intent to “gain” him back. The unforgiving flesh uses Matthew 18 to humiliate the brother into repentance; the forgiven flesh uses Matthew 18 to gain the brother in repentance. The intent is never to alienate, but always to win him back to faith. *Dear Jesus, grant us repentant hearts that we might warn and win our fallen brethren in love for You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:30-32 — Grieving the Holy Spirit

The little grudges we hold—they can’t be all that bad, can they? St. Paul warns us not to grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. What grieves the Holy Spirit? Bitterness. Wrath. Anger. Clamor. Slander. Malice. When your unforgiving flesh clings to bitterness and anger, wrath and malice against your fellow Christians, it grieves the Holy Spirit. He has called His people to kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness—as we have been forgiven in Christ. And thank the Lord for that. For only from the forgiveness we receive can we forgive those who sin against us. *Holy Spirit, by the gifts of Word and Sacrament, keep me tenderhearted and kind, quick to forgive as I have been forgiven in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31 — The Lord is My Rock and Fortress

The unforgiving flesh often clings to the sins of others for revenge. But revenge belongs to the Lord, and nowhere better than the Psalms does the Christian learn to leave revenge to God. The Psalms do not hesitate to declare punishment upon the wicked for their sins, but that punishment always belongs to God. Always do the Psalms call on the Lord to punish the wicked, while at the same time clinging to the steadfast love of God who preserves His faithful. He repays the one who acts in pride; but the faithful humbly waits on the Lord. He hides the one who takes refuge in him. *Father, be a rock of refuge and a fortress of strength for me, that my unforgiving flesh might be put to death, and I learn to gladly forgive as I have been forgiven. Amen.*

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