

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Ecclesiasticus 36:16-17a; Psalm 122:1, 6, 8-9

Give peace, O Lord, to those who / wait for You:*
and let Your prophets be proven / faithful.
Hear the prayer of Your / servants,*
according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your / people.
I was glad when they / said to me,*
“Let us go into the house / of the Lord.”
Pray for the peace of Je- / rusalem:*
“May they prosper who / love you.
For the sake of my brethren and com- / panions,*
I will now say, “Peace be with- / in you.”
Because of the house of the / Lord our God*
I will / seek your good.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 John 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, forasmuch as without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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
Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart

TLH 429, LSB 708
Martin Shalling



1. Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
Yea, heaven itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee no one could shake.
Thou art the Portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ,
My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

3. Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abram's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace,
Lord Jesus Christ,
My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.



“Singlehearted Love of God in Christ”

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: Singlehearted Love of God in Christ

Holy Scripture reminds us of the love that we need. God's love, revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, focuses our hearts and minds on Who truly matters, Him. The Father, Jesus Christ, Lord of heaven and earth, Who with the Holy Spirit is one God now and forever, reveals true love at the cross. This love seeks no record of when it has been wronged. He is patient and kind and His love continues even when we forget Him. God is faithful to us, even when we are unfaithful. What a great love God gives to us and gives to others through us. His singlehearted love is the source of all good things. His Son is a perfect picture of His love and our hope and salvation, forever and ever. Amen.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-46 - The Cross of God's Love

Jesus teaches us plainly the greatest commandments in the Law and, surprisingly, they are in the shape of a cross. "Love the Lord your God" is concerned with the first table of the Law, between you and God (vertical). Love your neighbor, with the second table of the law, our service to God via our treatment of our neighbor (horizontal). Everything we say and do, whether prayers or service to God, or love and service to the neighbor happens inside of what Jesus did for us on the vertical and horizontal beams of the cross. His blood silenced the Law's accusation against us. His obedience to the perfect law of love is our gift through faith. *Lord Jesus, bless us through Your love as it comes down from heaven and is given to our neighbor through the Word of Your cross and resurrection. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:137-144 - Love the Law, be Blessed by the Gospel

The psalmist loves the Lord in this psalm. He loves the Lord's law and His rules. It is often a temptation to recoil from God's rules because they always condemn us. The law of God brings to us truth. It teaches sinners to recognize and confess their guilt. Yet, the psalmist loves His law, and we should too. How can we love what leads us to guilt? It becomes clear in this phrase of the psalm. "Trouble and anguish have found me out." Once our sin is revealed by the law, Christ reveals himself to us by his Gospel. We are forgiven and the law's accusation ends. The law is a great gift for this main reason (there are many others too). The law shows the truth so that Christ's undeserved mercy and forgiveness are clear. Because it points away from works and to Jesus, we too love the Law of God! *Lord Jesus, bless me with the truth, so I may clearly see Your forgiveness again and again. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 - Jesus' Love is Everything

How could the apostle say that believers are "not lacking in any gift?" If we look to ourselves, we will quickly find that we are lacking in many ways, for we daily sin much. However, the message of God's love for the world does not depend on us, but on Christ. If we have Christ we have all things and we lack no good gift of salvation! It is of the highest importance to recall that it is Christ, not the gifts themselves, that sustain us. Jesus is the one, according to this text, that sustains us to the end, guiltless. *Dearest Jesus, bless us each and every day with Your gifts, and may each gift keep us recognizing at all times that You are the giver and provider of all good things. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21 - Circumcision of the Heart

The Lord is God of all! His people are those who have faith that Jesus is for them. It is in His promises that His great love is revealed to us. His people are commanded to love Him and serve Him, to mark their hearts through circumcision of the heart, which is faith. This means that the hearts of believers are different than the heart of those who reject faith. Believers see by grace through faith that they fail and sin and their circumcised hearts look to God's grace repeatedly. God leads us to Himself by becoming Savior for us in Jesus. His love is ever evident in the forgiveness of sins. He is willing to forgive and have patience with us constantly. People who reject Christ's death and resurrection being for them; their hearts do not turn to God at all. *Lord Jesus, lead us to Your forgiveness. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17 The Fruit of the Vine through the Branches

Where do the branches end and the Vine begin? Or vice versa? That's the idea exactly! What goes on in the Divine Service comes from our Lord, the Vine. This is the life that He gives to the world in the Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments. The power contained in preaching and teaching and absolution at church is how Jesus (the Vine) works in the Church (the Branches). Therefore, it is difficult to discern where the Vine ends and the Branches begin. He has included His Church in Himself, for she is His very own body. When we go to church and hear the Gospel and received the Lord's own body and blood, or when we hear the pastor forgive us, we receive through the branches, the fruit of Christ, the life of the Vine. *Lord Jesus, show us Yourself at work through real means of grace. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8 We are Beloved Children of God

God has made you His very own child. That means you are a part of His family! God Almighty, master of all creation, creator of the universe, ruler of the cosmos has made you a part of His family, a part of Himself in Christ. This means that sin is not our nature, but is only a defeated part of our old nature. For this reason, while we still struggle with sin, we should not obey it or act on it at all. It has been defeated forever. We live in this world where sin still attacks us, but the promise of our Lord is stronger. Forgiveness of sins is ours! God has all authority in heaven and on earth and He says "All your sins are forgiven." *Lord God, remind us that although we are undeserving, Your great love for us keeps us secure in Your family. Thank you for making us Your dear children. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 - God is Our Helper

God is our helper! In Him we move and live and have our being. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He calls us by name. He calls us His own. His love is deeper than the ocean. His forgiveness and mercy are unfathomable. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has not abandoned us. He has gone to prepare a place for us, and He will come again to bring us to Himself. He daily and richly forgives and provides all we need for this body and life. He died for us! He rose again according to the Scriptures. He descended into Hell so we would not. He ascended into the heavens so that we would rise again to meet Him in the clouds. God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save us! So...yes, God is our helper! *Jesus, remind us of Your love. Amen.*

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