



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:137, 124, 1-2, 5-6**

Righteous are / You, O Lord,*
 and upright are Your / judgments.
 Deal with Your servant according to Your / mercy,*
 and teach me Your / statutes.
 Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
 who walk in the law / of the Lord!
 Blessed are those who keep His testi- / monies,*
 who seek Him with the / whole heart!
 Oh, that my ways were / directed*
 to keep Your / statutes!
 Then I would not / be ashamed,*
 when I look into all Your com- / mandments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Galatians 6:10**

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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
In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

TLH 319
 Johannes Schneising



1. In Thee alone, O Christ, my Lord,
 My hope on earth remaineth;
 I know Thou wilt Thine aid afford,
 Naught else my soul sustaineth.
 No strength of man, no earthly stay
 Can help me in the evil day;
 Thou, only Thou, canst aid supply.
 To Thee I cry;
 On Thee I bid my heart rely.

3. O Lord, in mercy stay my heart
 On faith's most sure foundation
 And to my inmost soul impart
 Thy perfect consolation.
 Fill all my life with love to Thee,
 Toward all men grant me charity;
 And at the last, when comes my end,
 Thy succor send.
 From Satan's wiles my soul defend.

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: Humble Love of Brothers in Faith

The works of love that flow from true Christian faith can best be seen among the brothers who believe, teach, and confess Jesus' saving name. As we've been bound together in the church by the same confession and faith, so also do our works for the brothers reflect and emulate Christ's saving grace received in the divine service. We pray for one another. We forgive each other's sins. In times of joy, we rejoice with the members of our church. We weep with them in times of sorrow. If any need of body or soul afflicts the brothers, we, as members of the same body, extend hands of love that are received by our brothers as the hands of Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:1-11 The Law and Love

The Pharisees think Jesus is trapped. At their dinner they are watching Jesus closely, wanting for Him to sin against the Law so that their anger will be justified. An opportunity arises. It's the Sabbath. One cannot work without breaking the Law, they think. But here's a man with dropsy. Will Jesus break God's Law through a miracle of compassion? Will He sin against God to serve this man? The trap misfires. Jesus keeps both the commands to love God and the neighbor. On the Sabbath, Jesus works to bless and redeem His creation. His love doesn't contradict the Law. He fulfills it. Praise God! Any attempt to set the Law against love or loving God against loving the neighbor is a lie. "Teach me Your statutes, O Lord, that I may gain wisdom." Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:129-136 (PE) The Wonder of Law and Gospel

The wonder of God's Word is found in the spiritual life it imparts. Though the Law commands, condemns, and kills, it serves a holy purpose. Like John the Baptist preaching "Repent!" before Jesus' coming, it prepares our hearts to receive our Lord by faith. All justifications and pretenses are abandoned under the severity of the Law's glare. But when the Gospel is preached, Christ's forgiveness purchased and won through His cross, gives a healing and comforting light that imparts understanding to the humble. Having our hearts opened by Christ's Word and faith, we long for God's commandments. Our steps are kept steady according to Christ's promise. Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your statutes. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6 The Walk and Call

Pay attention to the proper order of things. This isn't just keeping track of what comes first and second. It includes discerning the necessary foundations upon which spiritual things are built. Paul says the word, "walk," and our flesh thinks it's found a way to earn salvation. But this walk doesn't achieve righteousness. It starts from the perfect righteousness of faith. It starts from the saving call given to you in Baptism. Trusting in Jesus' call alone to save you, then you begin to walk. From faith in God's tender call, from the joy and freedom of the Gospel, you live a life worthy of His gentleness and patience by being both in your own life. O Lord, grant me faith from which I can love You and my neighbor as myself. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 The Heavenly Logic of Praise

Hannah is a Christian. She sings, in concert with the Holy Spirit, a hymn that exults in God's righteous works which justify sinners in His sight. Follow the heavenly logic of her song. She confesses that salvation comes from God, calling it "Your salvation." God is holy. Man is sinful. The mighty man who trusts in himself is broken by God's judgment. But "the feeble bind on strength." The song lists opposites like this. To those who think they live, God kills. To those who despair and consider themselves dead, God makes alive. These are God's works of Law and Gospel. These are the words that justify the sinner in His sight. The conclusion asserts that these merciful judgments are for Christ's sake. Grant me faith to believe this, O Lord. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:18-28 The Necessary Distinction

Confusing God's commands with His grace is deadly. Calling the Gospel a "new Law" wrecks both the sufficiency of God's grace and robs the Law of its most important task, to teach us the severity of our sin. John the Baptist came to preach the Law. The asceticism of his disciples shows the effects of the Law in their lives. They sorrow over transgressions that deserve God's wrath. But the Law isn't an end unto itself. John the Baptist didn't come to offer a severe and legal way to salvation. He came to prepare the way for the bridegroom, for Jesus. When Jesus comes, the fast of sorrow over sin ends. The feast of forgiveness and grace begins. O Lord, grant me to drink the new wine of the Gospel unencumbered by the old wineskins of the Law. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:1-9 An Illustration of the Holy Ministry

Jesus teaches what the New Testament's ministry looks like. See how Jesus sends men to preach peace and the gracious coming of God's kingdom? Unless the men are sent, they don't come from Jesus. That's why the whole church goes through the formal process of calling men to serve various parishes. Unless the men preach the words Christ gave them, they're not representing Christ but themselves. That's why your pastors hold themselves to the Bible and the central article of justification by faith. By faith, let his word of peace rest upon you. Take care of your pastor's needs. Rejoice that though the workers are few, the Lord has sent one to bless you. I thank You for the preachers of righteousness which bless us with Your grace, O Lord. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 56 God Is For Me

David was harried by enemies both from Saul's court and from the gentile Philistines. He was always falling into one set of enemy hands or the other. In these situations, when we fall into enemy hands and can't see a way out of their traps, David teaches us to pray. Rather than seeking salvation in the strength of flesh and men, David pleads his case before the Lord. Why? David says, "This I know, that God is for me." Dear saints, God is for you! How do you know? He's given His Son into death to redeem you from your sins. He loves you so much that He wouldn't spare His own Son to save you. Jesus is the foundation for hope like David's. You have delivered my soul from death, yes my feet from falling that I may walk before God in the light of life. Amen.

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