

“Singlehearted Love of God in Christ”



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 **John 15:15**

[Jesus says,] “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

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 TLH 429, LSB 708



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.

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

The Lord is our helper. He takes us miserable sinners and gives us all we need for this life and the life to come. He redeems and rescues us with might and mercy, and binds us to Christ our vine. David's Son and Lord is our God and King, and He gives us an overflowing and never-ending joy in His righteous Word. The texts for this week's meditations are full of the Lord's gentleness for sinners, His strength to save, and the always surprising miracle of His grace, the forgiveness of our sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-46: David's Son and Lord, a Theological Riddle

Psalm 110 is a riddle: How can the Messiah be both David's son and David's Lord? Jesus asks this question to the Pharisees gathered to trick Him, and they don't know how to answer. We do! We know the solution to the riddle. Jesus is David's son according to His human nature, and He is David's Lord according to His divine nature. Jesus is "true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary." The riddle that stumps the Pharisees gives delight to the Christian. We know that Jesus is both God and man, who, for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven. His incarnation is the prelude to our salvation. *David's Son and Lord, thanks be to You for our salvation. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:137-144: Righteousness is Righteous Forever

Verse after verse Psalm 119 draws up back to the treasure of the Lord's Word. No matter how much trouble we have in this life, how much distress, how many afflictions and temptations surround us, the Lord's Word is "loved" (140), "true" (142), and our "delight" (143). Notice the word "righteous" in these eight verses. The Lord, who is righteous (137) has His word which is "righteous forever," (144), and that "righteousness is righteous forever" (142). That's a lot of righteousness. This, dear friends, is the righteousness that the Lord gives us in the Gospel, the righteousness we have by faith. The Lord's righteous word declares us righteous, and we will live eternally in this gift. *O Lord Jesus, we praise You for Your eternal righteous Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9: Paul's Thankful Example

Paul almost always begins with thanksgiving. He knows that the Corinthians Christians are sinners unworthy of the Lord's kindness. He knows that he is a sinner unworthy of the Lord's kindness. He knows that the world is sinful and undeserving of the Lord's care. But Paul sees the Lord's fantastic and overwhelming love for the world, himself, and the saints in Corinth, and he gives thanks. He thanks God for their repentance, their faith, their love, their gifts, and their spiritual riches which the Lord has given them as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul sees the entire world through the lens of God's mercy, and so he gives thanks in every circumstance. *O Lord, we thank You for the thankful example of Paul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we would join Him in thanksgiving. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21: The Lord of Lords is Our Lord

The God of gods and Lord of lords has chosen you. Not because of your greatness or goodness, but because of His grace. He has elected you as the object of His care, the target of His love, the recipient of His redemptive work in Christ. He has set His heart, in love, on you, and sent His Son to die for you. By the death and resurrection of Christ you are heirs of God, and your inheritance is the promised new heaven and earth where righteousness will dwell. "He is your praise. He is your God who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen!" *O Lord our God, keep us in Your mercy until we attain the resurrection of our bodies and life everlasting. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17: Branches Full of Joy

Jesus is the Vine. We are His branches. He purifies us, gives us life and hope, and fills us with joy. What a text! What a promise! "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love." Why does Jesus give us such tremendous promises? He tells us! "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." Jesus is filling up our joy, to the brim, to overflowing. His joy is the joy of salvation. His joy is the joy of forgiveness of all our sins. His joy is the joy of a life that never ends. "I have called you friends," Jesus says, and our joy continues to overflow. *O Lord Jesus, we delight and joy in being Your branches. Continue to fill us with Your life and joy. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8: What an Adoption!

Look at the love! That's what John is saying to us. Look at the kind of love the Lord has for us that He should call us His own dear children. We were born children of wrath (see Ephesians 2:3), but we've been adopted into this most holy Family. In our baptism the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit was placed on us, and we are, in truth, God's own children. This is stunning, and wonderful! We are His children now, and when He appears "we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is." We wait for that day with patience and hope. *Heavenly Father, we rejoice in Your adopting us as Your own dear children. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54: Many Enemies, One Really Good Friend

Christians have enemies. If we don't know this the Psalms will never make sense to us. "Strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life" (Psalm 54:3). If we can't identify our enemies, then we at least remember that the world, the flesh, and the devil are tracking us down to wreck our trust in Christ. Yes, we have enemies, but we also have a friend, a helper greater than our troubles. "Behold, God is my helper." We announce it to the world. "The Lord is the upholder of my life." He delivers us from trouble, and we give thanks to Him. *O God, save me by Your name and vindicate me by Your Might. Amen.*

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