

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 34:3b; 34:17; 48:14a; 78:1-3, 4b

Say to my soul, "I am your sal- / vation."*
The righteous cry out, and the / Lord hears.
He delivers them out of all their / troubles.*
For this is God, our God forever and / ever.
Give ear, O my people, / to my law;*
incline your ears to the words / of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a / parable;*
I will utter dark say- / ings of old,
which we have / heard and known,*
and our fathers have / told us.
We will tell the generation to come the praises / of the Lord,*
and His strength and His wonderful works that / He has done.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 9:2
"Take heart, My son, your sins are forgiven."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
O almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we implore You, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready, both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that You would have done; 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 331, LSB 614
Yea, as I Live, Jehovah Saith Nikolaus Herman



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| 1. Yea, as I live, Jehovah saith,
I would not have the sinner's death,
But that he turn from error's ways,
Repent, and live through endless days. | 4. "What ye shall bind, that bound shall be;
What ye shall loose, that shall be free;
Unto My Church the keys are giv'n
To ope and close the gates of heav'n." |
| 2. To us therefore Christ gave command:
"Go forth and preach in every land;
Bestow on all My pardoning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways. | 7. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
For absolution full and free,
In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;
From false indulgence guard our race. |
| 3. "All those whose sins ye thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins ye do retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain. | 8. Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As 'twas, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally! |



"Resisting the Flesh Led by the Devil"

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 Flesh Led by the Devil

The Lord comes to those corrupted and paralyzed by sin's venom. He says, "take heart, your sins are forgiven." He comes with authority as God's Lamb, who takes away the sin of the world. He redeems us by offering Himself as the price. He joins us to Himself in Baptism, making us His body and turning us toward one another for help and care. He calls us out as a unique people, peculiar and hated to the world, but beloved to God. As we consider the great opposition to Christ and His Church, we take comfort in His promises which no one can wrest from us: His absolution, His redemption, our salvation.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:1-8—Astounding Authority on Earth

The greatest authority is the authority to forgive sins. God alone possesses it. But the blood of His Son has won it for us. On account of that sacrifice, all authority to forgive has been given to the Son. And what astounds the crowds is that this authority has been given to men. Jesus absolves not only as God, by right; He forgives as the man sent by the Father. It is God's good pleasure to send apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors to speak that same forgiveness—on the basis of Christ's blood. Take heart, then, for forgiveness is heard on earth. *Lord, heal all my weaknesses and forgive all my sins. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:145-152—Watch Out

The morning keeps watch for the enemy, but a watch has already been kept: the prayer of Christians. This Psalm is not talking about midnight Matins, but about the priority of faith. Before it is necessary to worry about our enemies, we ought instead to devote ourselves to the Lord's Word in prayer and faith. In the defense of the faith, knowledge of the truth is the best protection. In defense against evils of body and soul, God's promises are not only stronger but prior. They have been founded from of old. They are steadfast. *O Lord, deliver us by Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:22-28—Corrupting, Deceitful Desires

The former self is corrupt through deceitful desires. What a perfect definition of original sin. It corrupts like a virus, using the best things for evil purposes. Its source and tragedy is rooted in our will, our desires—do not mistake your pleasure for God's. And it is deceitful: what we think will please does not, or does not last. Lastly, Paul speaks to us Christians and calls us continually to put off this old sinful self. Instead, we must put on again the clothes of Baptism: Christ's true righteousness and holiness. *O Christ, create in me a clean heart and give no place for the devil. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 44:21-23—Redeemer of Israel and All

The song of Israel's redemption echoes in sky, depths, forest, and mountain. "The Lord has done it." Indeed, when Jesus cried out "It is finished" from the cross, all was accomplished. His promises through the sons of Abraham was fulfilled. Sins are now evaporated like clouds and mist, not merely by a whim or thought, but by the blood of His New Testament. We gentiles may also apply these words to ourselves, because in Christ we have become the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16). Those whom the Lord formed, He has redeemed. The price is paid. The Lord has done it. *Lord, turn me again to You, my Redeemer. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-51—Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God

John's most famous sermon is never heard as the Gospel reading on Sunday: that is because it is sung every Sunday instead: "*O Christ, the Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world!*" The man Jesus is God's Lamb, the one He provides to take away the world's sin. He is God in the flesh, whom Abraham saw and in whom he rejoiced. The disciples of John must peel away and follow Him, and they do. They bring others to Him also. They seek to stay with Jesus, and that is the needful thing. So we add these prayers to John's confession: *Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27—The Body of Christ

The Church is the body of Christ, and we are her members. We are part of a whole body, working together because you are joined to Christ, the head, through Baptism. Rejoicing and suffering are to be done together. What is weak or struggling is to be covered and cared for by what is strong. All is to be done to the glory and at the command of the head, for the good of the whole body. There is much to ponder in this simple symbol made reality by Christ. *Lord, join me in love to my fellow Christians also. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: John 15:17-21—Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

If the world hates you, know that it hated Jesus first. They would love you if you were theirs; they hate you because you are Christ's. These are blessed truths for those who suffer or even, like Simon and Jude, face death for the sake of Christ and His Word. They are warnings for us also: it is necessary that we are and remain strange to the world. If we are its friends, that is the sign we have returned to the world rather than being called out of it by Christ. On the other hand, there is this promise: those who keep Jesus' word will also keep ours. *Lord, give me saintly conviction to persevere in Your truth. Amen.*

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