

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23

Have respect to Your cov- / nant, O Lord;*
oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!
Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;*
do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.
O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?
Remember Your congre- / gation,*
which You have pur- / chased of old,
The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—*
this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.
Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.*
Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK 1 Timothy 1:5

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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
O God, Thou Faithful God

TLH 395, LSB 696
Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,
Thou Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts
In mercy art bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whate'er Thou shalt command,
My calling here fulfilling;
To do it when I ought,
With all my might, and bless
The work I thus have wrought,
For Thou must give success.



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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of September 10-16, 2017

THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

"Love" can be a hard word to define. Often times God, Who is love, is accused of being unloving. Inspired by Satan, the world offers definitions of love that appeal to our sinful flesh. These myths, lies, and speculations can leave us confused, especially when considered apart from the Word of God. Still, our Lord calls us to love. He first gives His love to us as He sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10). Having received His love, we are given to respond in love. Baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, our desire is to give of ourselves, to follow His Law, His Way, that we may be blessed and be a blessing unto our neighbors.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:23-37 "Teacher, what shall I do the inherit eternal life?"

What do I have to do to justify myself, to earn the Lord's favor, to inherit eternal life? Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. In other words, keep the Ten Commandments perfectly. Sound daunting? It should. Our selfish ambitions are crushed by the demands of God's Law. There is nothing we can do to "inherit" life. Someone else must die in order for us to inherit. An inheritance is a gift. Jesus, our Good Samaritan, even while we were still His enemies, laid down His life that we might inherit eternal life. Having received everything from Him, we are set free to "go and do likewise." *Lord, quench my selfish ambition and empower me to serve and love my neighbor that they may see You in my actions. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM) "Oh how I love Your law."

The Good Samaritan is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who has given us new life through His sacrifice on the cross. Baptized into His death, we are set free from the demands of the Law. Raised up with Him we are given newness of life; a new understanding. In Christ, we now see God's Law as a blessing, rather than a burden. With the Psalmist, we rejoice in His commandments. They make us wise. We recognize the evil in the deceptions of the world and in our flesh and by the Holy Spirit we hate these false ways. In faith, we understand that His Way is the Way of life. *Heavenly Father, keep us steadfast in Your Word and increase in us a desire to follow Your precepts, that our lives may be blessed and that we may be a blessing unto our neighbors. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22 "Why then the law?"

Our inheritance, the forgiveness of sins, righteousness, and salvation, does not come through the Law. Yet, the Law is a part of God's Word given to us. In order to fully appreciate His Word and rejoice in His way, we respectfully ask, "Why then the Law?" The Law was added because of sin. It was given to pronounce the curse of death to the transgressor. Why? "So that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." The Law was given that we might despair of our works that lead to death and receive by faith the promise of God (the Gospel) which leads to life everlasting. *Lord, may Your Law continue to expose my sin that my faith may be rooted in Your promise of salvation through the offspring of Abraham, Jesus Christ.*



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WED

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5 "Follow My rules and walk in them."

Being tempted to live according to the ways of the world is nothing new. The Lord warned Israel not to walk in the ways of Egypt or Canaan. The ways of the world do not give life. Our Lord calls us to follow His way, His rules, His statutes, that we may have life to the fullest. We follow His way not out of fear, but out of love. Our Father's interest is in our well-being. His love for us was demonstrated most clearly when He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Knowing His love for us in Christ Jesus, through faith, our desire is to follow His way over and against the ways of the world. In Christ, the Father has shown that His Way leads from death to life. *Heavenly Father, keep my feet firmly planted in Your statutes that I may live by them. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 "What do you want?"

The mother of James and John hoped to secure prestigious seats for her sons in the Kingdom. Today, we too, aspire to seats of power, control, and prestige. Often times we might even feel that we deserve such seats of honor. The Kingdom that our Lord ushers in does not follow the rules of earthly kingdoms. Greatness comes not through power and control, but rather, through giving of self for the benefit of others. Jesus took the lowliest of seats as He was lifted up on the cross in order that we might be granted entrance to the banquet table of the Kingdom. We, who have been given His all, are called to greatness by following Him, in serving and giving of ourselves. *Lord, move us to sacrifice of ourselves and so reflect the greatness of Your Kingdom. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17 "The aim of our charge is love."

What is the source of Christian love? St. Paul writes, "love issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." Already in Paul's time, this foundation was under attack. He cautions that there are alternate teachings, myths, and speculations floating around that can lead people away from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In the face of these false teachings, we are called to be stewards of God by faith, messengers of the Truth, the Gospel of Christ. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. Here we have the true source of love. The aim of our charge is to spread the overflowing love He has given us by grace. *Lord, may Your faith-creating love continue to fill me that I may share it to Your glory. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 "My soul longs for the courts of the Lord."

Our Lord gathers His people, He draws them unto Himself. Trusting in His love for us, revealed to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord, we long for the comfort of His presence; we are drawn to His sanctuary. There we receive our strength. Gathered together in His house, we build one another up as our hearts sing for joy to the living God. In His courts, we pray that the Lord would hear our prayer for the sake of our shield, Jesus Christ. The Lord answers our prayers. He bestows favor, honor, and blessing to those who trust in the life giving sacrifice of His Son on the cross for us. *Heavenly Father, preserve me from the tents of wickedness and increase and sustain my zeal to approach You in Your house where I would be blessed to serve You as doorkeeper. Amen.*

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