

**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 **Psalm 54:2**  
“O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.”

**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**

I can't love God OR my neighbors. The sinner in me won't let me. I can only love God AND my neighbors. The saint in me won't allow for anything else. I can't be righteous and yet I am. I can't remain faithful and yet I do. I don't desire to serve my neighbor and yet I do. I can hardly convince myself to have a morning devotion and yet zeal for His Word consumes me! I am but a dried up fruitless stick and yet am a fruitful branch that can hardly bare anymore. This flesh/spirit coexistence is who I am. I thank the Lord for my saintly nature, which isn't mine, but Christ's. And I pray that my Old Adam might, by daily contrition, be put away. For this is the way of things on this side of heaven. May God be merciful to the sinner and uphold the saint.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 22:34-46—Loving the Law, Hating the Gospel**

The Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus by using the His own Law against Him. The Pharisees loved the Law, as does our sinful flesh, but for the wrong reason. We love the Law not because it is good and right and salutary, but because we think we can justify ourselves with it. If we do this we negate the Gospel. We have no need for Jesus. Yet the Law cannot save us. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of David, and He has already fulfilled the Law on our behalf. We don't pit the Law against the Gospel. The Law is fulfilled in the Gospel, that is, the Law is fulfilled in Christ. Christ fulfills our righteousness with His very own. Which is the greatest Commandment? The one that Christ fulfilled for us! *Lord, grant us a right understanding of both Law and Gospel. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:137-144—Your Commandments are My Delights**

It is stunning how the Lord's Word is put before us as our delight. "Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delight" (Ps 119:143). We might have trouble in this life, but the Lord gives us the treasure of His wisdom and His comfort in His Word. We delight in His Word because in His Word we hear that our Lord Jesus delights in us! All along our troubled way we have the treasure of the Lord's Word.

*Lord Jesus, teach us to delight in You and Your Words. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 1:4-9—The Grace of God in Christ**

The people of Corinth are children of God. They have everything they need. Christ is their source of every blessing and He is their forgiveness, life, and salvation. Paul encourages and reminds them of this gift. Then, immediately after our text, Paul speaks about the divisions in the congregation. This should not be, but it is. There should not be sin within the Church, but there is. There should only be saints within the Church, but it is full of sinners. Do we wonder at this? It is who we are: justified and redeemed saints, and yet, in this fallen flesh, sinners too. There are Christians. We repent. We rejoice that Christ makes us one. He will sustain us to the very end, guiltless in the day of our Lord. *Father, remain faithful to Your Church for the sake of Christ, that we may be holy in Your sight. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: **Deuteronomy 10:12-21—A Circumcised Heart**

Moses reminds the Israelites who they are: If they are circumcised in the flesh then they are circumcised in the heart. A child of God is a child of God; not just outwardly, but inwardly. He is a new creation, he produces good fruit, He hears God's Word, he loves it all and receives it all; both the admonishment of the Law and the forgiveness of the Gospel. Paul talks about this very thing for you in Colossians 2. In your baptism you received the circumcision of Christ. Buried in His death and raised to new life in His resurrection. Baptism is the putting on of Christ. His righteousness covers you, His good fruit is produced in you, His love for you and His love for your neighbors is in you. This is our joy and our gladness. *Lord God, daily drown us in our baptism so that we might have the circumcised heart of Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 15:1-17—Greater Love**

Jesus starts His teaching on vines and branches with words that sound a bit overwhelming: Bear much fruit! Yet before we can get our self-righteous gardening tools out of the shed He follows up with a perfect description of love. Nothing is greater than laying down one's life. Is that an example, the top rung of the ladder to climb to? Or is that the pinnacle of His love for us? The answer to that is staring at you from the cross. It is His cross and resurrection that connects you to the Vine in the first place. So what else could a branch do except do the branchy things of producing fruit? And what else could the Vine do except continue on doing His Viney things of making you a branch and then producing His fruit through you? Remember, its not about the branch, its about the Vine. *True Vine of heaven, produce in us branches You fruit for the good of our neighbors. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **1 John 3:1-8—For This Purpose**

Sin is what separates us from the life of God and joins us to death and the devil. Jesus comes to undo this, to undo our death, to undo our bandage and set us free. Look at how John says it, "For this reason the Son of God was manifest, that He might destroy the works of the devil." The devil that gives you so much trouble, he is destroyed by Jesus. The sin that gives you so much trouble, it is forgiven by Jesus. The death that is staring you down, it is destroyed by Jesus. You are His, and life is yours. *Lord Jesus, keep us in Your forgiveness and life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 54—God is My Helper**

David flees for his life from Saul and then is betrayed by the Ziphites. He is hiding in southern Judah and yet his whereabouts are made known. Saul seeks his life because God's Word has consecrated David to be king. In the midst of trial, fear, and lament David calls out to God. He sees no way of escape aside from God's almighty hand. The same is true for us. In times of suffering and torment we often are left in a state of "I believe! Help my unbelief!" We know God's promises and yet are still overwhelmed by the trials of this life. In times such as these, may we cry out a Psalm of lament and pray for vindication. Let us hold God to His Word, for He has tied Himself to it. Then we sit in His promises knowing that He will never break them. *Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. Amen.*

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