



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 13:5-6, 1-4**

O Lord, I have trusted in Your / mercy;*
 my heart shall rejoice in Your sal- / vation.
 I will sing / to the Lord,*
 because He has dealt bountiful- / ly with me. (Psalm 13:5–6)
 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me for- / ever?*

How long will You hide Your / face from me?
 How long shall I take counsel / in my soul,*
 how long will my enemy be exalted / over me?
 Consider and hear me, O / Lord my God;*

enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the / sleep of death;
 lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed a- / gainst him”;*
 lest those who trouble me rejoice when / I am moved.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:1**
 “Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, the Strength of all those who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us the help of Your grace that in keeping Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide**
 TLH 292, LSB 585
 Nikolaus Selnecker



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| <p>1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
 For round us falls the eventide;
 Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
 For us be ever veiled in night.</p> <p>2. In these last days of sore distress
 Grant us, dear Lord, true
 steadfastness
 That pure we keep, till life is spent,
 Thy holy Word and Sacrament.</p> | <p>4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
 The guile and rage of Satan stay!
 Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
 Give concord, patience, courage, peace.</p> <p>9. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
 We here may live and die, dear Lord;
 And when our journey endeth here,
 Receive us into glory there.</p> |
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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: The Spirit's Words in Holy Scripture

God makes it clear to us this week that the things of the Gospel. The gifts that He gives are far more than the temporal things that we can see and touch and hold close. While 1st Article gifts are still blessings from above, the sinner likes to focus on the gift and forget about the Giver, thus no longer seeing it as gift and boasting in himself. And so throughout this week Your Lord will remind you, that you do not live on bread alone, that your treasures are more than earthly baubles, and that a person of faith takes delight in the things of heaven: chiefly in the gift of life and salvation that he receives from His Savior. And it is these things that necessarily spill over into love and service for the neighbor: not for the doer's good, but for the neighbor's.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31—Moses and the Prophets

Jesus is clear in this parable, that Moses and the Prophets hold all that is necessary for eternal life. That is to say that the Word of God, first the Old Testament and then the New, is the means by which the Holy Spirit creates, enlivens, and sustains faith. Not even a man come back from the grave (Jesus is tipping His hat to His own resurrection, here) will be enough to convince those who have hardened their hearts to the preaching of the forgiveness of sins from a merciful God. Those who are content to go it their own should not be surprised on his last day when alone is how they stand. But for those who have a name, a name like Lazarus, a name given and gifted through faith by our most gracious Lord, they need never fear death. *“Lord, let at last Thine angels come, to Abr’ham’s bosom bear me home.” Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 15:1-6—As the Stars of the Sky

Already an old man when God first promised him a son, we find Abraham still waiting for the culmination of that promise in our text for today. He still has another couple of decades and more than a few more slip-ups before Isaac comes bouncing along in his bassinet. But even Isaac isn't the final fulfillment of God's promise. That happens when God takes on human flesh and makes the descendants of Abraham (through faith) more numerous than the stars in the sky. You see, God's covenant with Abraham isn't so much to do with Abraham's faithfulness, but it has everything to do with His faithfulness to His promise, which, of course, He never breaks. And so even here, staring up into the night sky, the Word of the Lord is pointing to Himself, in the person of Christ. *Lord, grant me faith to believe Your promises. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21—Loving God = Loving Your Neighbor

You can't have one without the other, that is what John is trying to get across to us in this text. And it makes sense, of course, for one who is forgiven, forgives. He can do no other. And because of this the one who is loved by God, in turn loves. And He doesn't just love God, but in loving God He loves His neighbor. For God doesn't need our love, or our service, but our neighbors sure do. It is almost as if this is the way in which our Lord set it up in the first place: That He would care for His people, partly through the loves that we have for each other. To be in Christ means that we love each other, there can be no other way, for believing that Christ and hatred are compatible is ridiculous. The One who loves us to the point of death would also in turn have us love our neighbors with forgiveness and truth. *Jesus, help us love our neighbors as we ought. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24—What we should boast in

The sinner always wants to boast in the stuff that he has or the things that he does. He likes to look at his brains and his brawn, his bank account and his pocketbook and then brag unto all the world about how wonderful he is. Never once, though, does the sinner recognize that all these things are but gifts from his Lord and can be taken away at any time. And believe me, God will most certainly take them all away one day, and yet He does so graciously so that we might recognize that we have nothing to boast about except Him. It is our God's aim to have us boast in the only thing that can bring us salvation, and that, of course, is Him. For it is the Lord Who practices steadfast love for the sinner, granting us righteousness before His eyes with a justice that doesn't make sense to our minds, but makes sense in the light of the Gospel. *God, may we boast in nothing except Christ. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21—Treasures

I doubt the man at the beginning of our text was happy with the parable that Jesus told. All he wanted was his slice of the pie, at least the slice he thought was due him, and his brother obviously felt different. But isn't this the way of the sinner, always worrying about the temporal things of this world, which in the end do not matter. "Do I have enough socked away? Is the nest egg big enough when everything around me cracks?" Now Jesus isn't telling us to be careless about these things, but he is telling us that if all we care about is the nest egg, He will make sure to break it before it does us any good. For what good is a lifetime's worth of money when we have spurned the things of eternity as if they have no worth. There are better things, by far, than a big ol' barn full of grain. May our Lord make us aware of this fact. *Jesus, set our eyes on things above. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19—The Love of Money

It's the pleasant things of this world, the 1st Article gifts that our Lord actually supplies for us, that the sinner goes and turns into the most evil of things. And again, it isn't the gift that is evil, but our twisted desire for it above all other things and in places where it is not ours to have. But as for the man of faith, the saint God has made us to be, these pleasures should not be what wakes us up in the morning and drives us throughout the day. Instead, the things of the Gospel: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness, must guide our hearts and our minds, indeed, they must. For the saint in Christ desires such things and fights the fight of faith against the sinner within who wants the other stuff. And so it is a daily struggle, a daily drowning of the Old Adam by the new, bearing witness to the promises of God. *God, may we fight the good fight of faith. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:1-8 (ALEPH)—Do not Forsake Me

O Lord, You have blessed all those who walk according to Your law, whose ways are blameless, and whose desires are in accordance with Your Word. And so You boss those who seek You and Your testimonies with their whole heart, not partially, but fully, without blemish. Without any hint of wrong. For you have set Your precepts aright and so they are good and holy, to be kept without question. And yet, it is impossible for me to do so, even if it is my desire, even if I know it is for my ultimate good, I can no more keep Your law than give myself breath. There is no one righteous, no not one born of man, except for your Son, Who You sent to do what we sinner could not. And so it is He Who keeps Your precepts and delights in Your law so that His righteousness might be our own and that Your law can finally be seen as the gift that it has always been. Grant this to us all, for the sake of Christ. Amen.

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