

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49

The Lord was / my support.\*  
In the day of my ca- / lamity  
He brought me out into a / broad place;\*  
He delivered me because He delight- / ed in me.  
I will love You, O / Lord, my strength.\*  
The Lord is my rock and my / fortress.  
For You will save the humble / people,\*  
but will bring down / haughty looks.  
As for God, His way is / perfect;\*  
the word of the Lord is / proven;  
I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the / Gentiles,\*  
and sing praises / to Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Revelation 3:20

“If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom You bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Oh, How Great is Your Compassion**

TLH 384, LSB 559  
Johann Olearius



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|---|---|
| <p>1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,<br/>Faithful Father, God of grace,<br/>That with all our fallen race<br/>And in our deep degradation<br/>Thou wast merciful that we<br/>Might be saved eternally!</p>    | <p>3. And for this our soul's salvation<br/>Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,<br/>In Thy Sacraments and Word.<br/>He imparts true consolation,<br/>Granteth us the gift of faith<br/>That we fear nor hell nor death.</p> |
| <p>2. Thy great love for this hath striven<br/>That we may from sin be free<br/>And forever live with Thee;<br/>Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given<br/>And extends an earnest call<br/>To His Supper unto all.</p> | <p>4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,-<br/>Truth doth evermore abide,-<br/>Then in Thee I will confide.<br/>Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,<br/>My salvation is to me<br/>Well assured eternally.</p>              |



“The Spirit’s Call to Fellowship with God”

**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 Call to Fellowship with God

The word “fellowship” gets tossed around and in our common church life usage the nuance is generally correct, but the application slightly off. Thus, the one Holy Christian and apostolic Church gathers for coffee and donuts. This tradition is good and rightfully cherished, of course, but the fullest fellowship a Christian possesses is the gathering around font, lectern, pulpit, and altar. Gathered in nave and chancel by the Spirit working through the Word of Law and Gospel, the Christian and Christians are called into holiest and fullest union with God and each other through faith in Christ Jesus and instructed in works of love for God and one another.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:16-24 RSVP with regrets at your own peril

Each of the guests rejected the invitation of grace with an excuse. Those who had been invited backed out. Our Lord's call to fellowship, however it comes, must not be disdained. We like errant sheep are wont to care about the wrong stuff. Yet, the invitation to repentance and the promise of forgiveness continues to go out through the Gospel's efficacious call. Thanks be to God that you have heard the Gospel, attend the great banquet, and desire to remain in fellowship with God. We also ought to be exhorted to faithful witness by our Lord's warning for the goodness of the banquet won for us by Christ. The invitation must be compelling: the Law terrifying and pricking, the Gospel sweet and soothing. *Lord, help me to continually hear the invitation and extend it. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16 Holy and unholy unions

The unrestrained lusts of youth urge us to unite ourselves to the seductive calls of the world, our flesh, and the devil. Such is James' warning: Friendship with the world is enmity with God (4:4). Union with the crucified, risen, and ascended Christ overcomes all of this. The Spirit creates a desire to be trained by the Word and be joined to Christ. David's psalm points forward to these words of Jesus, “[The Spirit] will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (Jn. 14:26) and “If you abide in My word, you are truly my disciples” (Jn. 8:31). The Spirit's abiding work in each Christian is the patient fulfillment of “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it” (Lk. 11:28). *Lord, Keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:13-18 Am I my brother's keeper?

The necessary result of fellowship with God is that we have fellowship with other believers. Having been brought into communion with God by the Incarnation of the Son through His death, resurrection, ascension, and the sending of His Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus desires fellowship with all who call upon Him. He has no interest in reigning unto eternity all by His lonesome with just you. He wants His kingdom to be full. And so it is that, assured of fellowship with God, we lay down our lives in love, dying to self, and serving our neighbors. Thus our love is shown in that, for the sake of earthly fellowship, we gladly give up and sacrifice, rejoicing in the opportunity to deny ourselves for the sake of others. *Lord, help me to be my brother's keeper. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25:6-9 Fellowship through Feasting

Isaiah prophesies the end of incredible destruction and the enthronement of God for all to see, and His gracious provision for all nations in the abundance of the Gospel: chiefly, death will be undone. This is cause to rejoice for what had separated people from God, sin leading to death, is removed. Isaiah's prophecy is Messianic, for only the Divine Son's immaculate sacrifice could atone for the sin of men. So it is, that through the Son, we have fellowship and commune with God in body and blood, partaking of the feast of eternal life. And in this feast we look forward to its fullness at His glorious appearing: I will come to him and eat with him and he with Me (Rev. 3:20). *Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35 Easy gains?

Following Jesus doesn't add up. Christianity initially sounds like an easy win. Justification and salvation, instantly free, for eternity? Sure! But sanctification? That seems a fool's errand in delayed gratification. A life of suffering? Who wants that? Gym bros, maybe. Total death to self? Everyone has a price. We daily desire to drop the cross and flee from suffering that marks the Christian life, to do calculations for other, more worthwhile, projects. Thus, we heed the Lord's strong warning against discipleship in name only. The Lord alone has borne His cross faithfully; soothing encouragement for us! *Lord, by Your grace, renew in me the desire to die daily and rise with You, to faithfully follow through trial and tribulation unto completed salvation. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:14-22 There's no Missouri Compromise in heaven

“No one likes a fence-sitter.” “Don't be Civil War-era Missouri.” The Laodiceans were smug with self-satisfaction and this revealed hypocrisy in the heart. They tried to fellowship with God and mammon, concord Jesus with Belial. The spiritual danger of lukewarmness or a divided house is that it eventually leads to a loss of the fear of the Lord. Before long, like Israel, you cry in death to a God you do not know: “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we clean cut off.” Fence-sitting is our own doing, but God rebukes and chastens those whom He loves. His corrections to indifference are not of wrath but of grace. It is a comfort to know that where God chastens, He still has His elect. The elect understand this rebuke because it cuts to the heart: God's wake up call is a sure sign He desires fellowship with those who will hear Him and bring forth fruits of repentance, and sup with Him. *Lord, help me hunger and thirst only for the righteousness that comes by faith. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 28 The Word does convicting and saving work

When wicked and malicious intentions are revealed by the Word, hypocrites tend to lose their charming cool; thus, a wise pastor once said, “just give them enough rope and they'll hang themselves.” If a Christian is in danger of deceit, to whom should he pray? “Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you,” the God of our salvation reminds us. Trusting in our only Deliverer, His Spirit will comfort with the encouragement God will deal with the wicked in His own way AND also deliver us from being ensnared with them. God has already assured us of victory in Christ. Every Christian who has the Spirit is heard by God and answered for Jesus' sake, and being joined to God, the heart leaps for joy. *Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me. Amen.*

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