



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 13:5**
 “But I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.”

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

Having acknowledged the glory of the eternal Trinity, the church looks across the vast "green meadow" of twenty-three to twenty-seven Sundays after Trinity, rejoicing in the good news that One of the Trinity suffered for us. This week the Spirit's words in Holy Scripture tell of being rich toward God (Sunday and Thursday), delighting in His Word (Monday), loving one another (Tuesday), boasting only in the Lord (Wednesday), and the naming of John the Baptist (Friday). The Psalm for Saturday summarizes all six lessons in six strophes.

Thus are we invited to pray, "The true God, One in Three and Three in One: O come, let us worship Him."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus

The rich man was not truly rich, but impoverished toward Christ, who does not even know his name. Lazarus, by contrast, was rich with heavenly treasure, known by Christ as Lazarus, "one whom God helps." The rich man never saw him for the prince he truly was until he became the beggar in hell, while Lazarus feasted sumptuously with Abraham. Even the resurrection of the Son of God cannot help the finally impenitent! Give heed, then, to Moses and the prophets in this life, O Christian. For in hearing the word of the cross and resurrection, you are satisfied with the fatness of God's house, even if you are but a beggar in this life. *Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abram's bosom bear me home, That I may die unfearing (TLH 429.3). Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:1-8 (ALEPH) The Word is Our Lamp

The word "declogue" (literally "ten words") usually refers to the Ten *Commandments*, but it is more aptly applied to Psalm 119. For here, in 175 of 176 verses, are truly ten *words* (testimonies, ways, precepts, etc.) for the Word of God. The theme begins in verse 1: "Blessed are those . . . who walk in the law of the Lord." Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that "law" here means "the entire salvation act of God and the direction for a new life in obedience." As you pray this strophe from Psalm 119, see how you have broken God's law and repent. And take refuge in the saving acts of God in Christ, the Word incarnate. *Order my footsteps by Thy Word / And make my heart sincere; Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear (LSB 707.2). Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21 Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

Human fear and Divine love have a "catch me if you can" relationship. Only one can occupy your heart, for the two cannot co-exist. Under the law, fear of sin, death, and the devil casts out the love of God, for your trust is misplaced if you live in fear of defeated enemies. Under the gospel, however, God's steadfast love casts out human fear: "In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 Jn. 4:10). In Christ God casts out all idolatrous fear from your heart and grants you to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love with one another. *Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart (LSB 700.1). Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23, 24 Boast Only in the Lord

From *Self* magazine to the proliferation of selfies on our iPhones to the dominance of what I like to call "*Fake-book*," we live in a popular culture that is rightly described by one author as "the triumph of the modern self." Jeremiah condemned all boasting in self-centered wisdom, might, and riches because he knew that the human heart is an idol factory, with no room for God apart from repentance. The penitent heart, however, boasts only in the Lord and His gifts: love, justice, and righteousness in Christ alone. For through His new covenant (Jer. 31:34) He forgives your iniquity and remembers your sin no more. *O God, grant that forsaking all earthly wisdom and trusting in Your righteousness, I may ever rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

In 1964 two friends in Odessa, Texas, opened the first known U-Store-It facility in the country. By 2015 there were almost 50,000 of them—twenty-one square feet of storage space for every American household! One insightful book calls our rise in wealth, coupled with a decline in personal happiness, the "progress paradox." As we amass wealth like the rich fool, we tend to lose the riches of God. Repent! C. S. Lewis said that you can seek earthly treasures first, but then you might lose heavenly treasures. Or you can seek heavenly treasures first, and God will throw in the things of this earth for free. *Jesus, Thou art mine forever, Dearer far than earth to me; Neither life nor death shall sever / Those sweet ties which bind to Thee (TLH 357.1). Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

John was not to be named after his father since the One preferred before him, cousin Jesus, had no earthly father. John's naming ceremony prefigures the custom of only giving one's first name (e.g., "Brian," not "Brian Flamme") during the rite of Baptism. In Baptism one leaves, as it were, his biological family to be received into God's baptismal family—God the Father, Christ the Son, Holy Mother Church, and all God's baptismal children—because Jesus "has washed us in the tide / Flowing from His pierced side" (LSB 633.1). Thus you shall be called "Christian," for you were taken out of Christ. *Soul of Christ, hallow me; body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, refresh me; water from the side of Christ, wash me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 "I Will Bless the Lord at All Times"

Psalm 34 is arranged in six strophes (think hymn stanzas), which echo the readings of the previous six days. In praying this Psalm you magnify the Lord with John the Baptist (vss. 1-3), join Lazarus to pray for God's mercy in Christ (vss. 4-7), and declare the blessedness of those who trust in God's Word (vss. 8-10). Moreover, here you sing of the fear of the Lord (vss. 11-14) that casts out idolatrous fear (1 Jn 4); that salvation is in the Lord alone (vss. 15-17), in contrast to the rich fool; and finally that your redemption is not through the false gods condemned by Jeremiah, but rather through the blood of the Messiah (vss. 18-22). *O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in Thee. O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded. Amen.*

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