

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 91:15-16, 1-2, 9-10, 13

He shall call upon Me, and I will | answer him;\*  
I will deliver him and | honor him.  
With long life I will sat- | isfy him,\*  
and show him My sal- | vation.”  
He who dwells in the secret place of the | Most High\*  
shall abide under the shadow of the Al- | mighty.  
I will say | of the Lord,\*  
“He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him | I will trust.”  
Because you have made the Lord, who is my | refuge,\*  
even the Most High, your | dwelling place,  
No evil shall be- | fall you,\*  
nor shall any plague come near your | dwelling.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Genesis 3:14a,15  
The LORD God said to the serpent...“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
O Lord, mercifully hear our prayer and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**God the Father, Be Our Stay**

TLH 247, LSB 505  
Martin Luther



(verse 1) God the Father, be our Stay,  
(v2) Jesus Christ, be Thou our Stay,  
(v3) Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,  
Oh, let us perish never.  
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,  
And grant us life forever.  
Keep us from the Evil One;  
Uphold our faith most holy,

Grant us to trust Thee solely  
With humble hearts and lowly.  
Let us put God's armor on:  
With all true Christians running  
Our heavenly race and shunning  
The devil's wiles and cunning.  
Amen, Amen, this be done,  
So sing we, Hallelujah!



“He Suffered Temptation by Satan”

**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: He Suffered Temptation by Satan

Temptation leads you back to God. That is an odd thing to say, but it is the truth. Our Lord has a funny way about Him in that He can, and does, work in all things for our good; even temptation. Although God tempts no one (that is the work of our sinful flesh, the world, the devil) He rides our temptation like a stubborn horse and uses it to once again unite us with Him. When tempted, God uses that temptation to drive us to prayer. This is where we cry out to be freed from temptation, to not be led into it, and to be forgiven of our sins when we fall. These prayers do not fall on deaf ears. Our Lord takes us from this place of prayer and drives us to hear His answer to our prayer in His Word. He doesn't drive us to our emotions or feelings or logic or rational thinking; that is the work of the devil. Instead He takes us to His Word, where He proclaims His Word of the cross to protect and absolve us.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11: Never Tempted from His Course

When Satan tempts Jesus he tries to play to His pride. He attempts to get Jesus to despise His humanity, to prove to the world and to Himself that He was God, through self-serving means. He wants Jesus to show forth His glory, but not the glory of the cross. In short, Satan tempts Jesus away from His purpose. But Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; and He did not fall victim to this prideful temptation. He became one with His creation, took on our flesh, in order to accomplish one thing: to crush Satan's head through His death on the cross. Jesus' victory over Satan is not found in His divine majesty. It is not found in His ability to magically fill His belly or to call upon angels. Instead, His victory over the devil, His glory over him, is found nowhere but in a dead man hanging on a cross. For the cross is the place of Christ's true victory and the place of His ultimate glory. *Father, we give you thanks for the cross: the place of Your glory. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-21: The First (and Only) Gospel

Satan always tempts by driving a wedge between us and God's Word. "Did God really say..." is found in every single one of his temptations. For when that wedge is driven home then we have no place to hide away from his assaults. And when we succumb to those temptations and listen to His lies there are no amount of fig leaves that can hide our sin. Satan's sole purpose is two-fold: first he does all he can so that God's Word is not taught in truth and purity. And when this doesn't work he earnestly tempts us to not believe that properly taught Word. But against this evil work of the devil God sends a Word to do away with the wedge that Satan drives between God and His creation: a Word from His lips; a Word made flesh. In the Garden we have that promise. In the person of Christ it takes on flesh. In His Word proclaimed to you it is given. *Gracious God, may Your Word of forgiveness always cover our nakedness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10: Now Is the Favorable Time

We have our Lord's promise that He will listen to us in our time of need and temptation. This is an amazing gift and the comfort of the Gospel. God does not tell us to, "Go it alone." He isn't a God who set the world spinning and then walked away from it. And He isn't a Savior who only begins His work of salvation and tells us that we must do the rest. He does it all. He never stops doing it all. Right here, right now, for the sake of Christ, is the favorable time in which your God hears you. Right here in this Valley of Tears and your own personal "Desert of Temptation". Right now as your sinful flesh, the world, and the devil assault you in your everyday lives. Right now as you struggle with the same temptation each and every day and come crawling to His altar for the same forgiveness each and every week. Now your Lord hears you. And now He saves you. Today, the Word made flesh speaks into your ears, "I Am your salvation!" *Dear Savior, grant us your salvation today as we live in this life of temptation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91:1-16: God Brings Salvation in His Way

The devil tempts us to find refuge in God in any place except where God has promised to be. Satan smiles in glee if you exalt the name of Jesus, just as long as it is a Jesus that does not forgive sins. The wily serpent couldn't care less, is actually happy, if you seek salvation in creation or reason or science or anything else other than God's Word. Satan tempts us to tempt God by choosing the protection and aid for ourselves by means of which we wished to be saved. But our Lord has promised to save us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. And He has ordained the way in which that salvation comes to us: in the Word spoken, sprinkled, and served. This is how your Lord will cover you. These are the wings in which you will find refuge. And God's faithfulness to you will shield you from all the assaults of the devil. *Dear Lord, save us by Your forgiveness won on the cross and given through Your Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:13a: Lead Us not into Temptation

Temptation comes from three enemies: our sinful flesh, the world, and the devil. Each of these attacks us in painfully wicked ways and yet the wickedest of them all is the one employed by Satan which tempts us to doubt God's promises and spurn His forgiveness. Our sinful flesh will cause us to fall and the world will tempt us to follow its worldly ways and yet it is the devil who tells us that God's forgiveness for these sins is not for us. This is the most damning type of temptation because it does away with the only thing that will make us righteous before God. Satan presses us at all times and drives us to despair of our sin: just like Judas Iscariot. And yet we pray that this temptation might not overcome us. We pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven, that is, that God breaks the devil's temptation to not believe His Word. For it is in the Word alone, the Word of forgiveness, in which we are saved. *Our Father who art in heaven, lead us not into temptation. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel 17:40-51: Salvation without a Sword

We do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of the heavenly plains. This St. Paul speaks as he urges us to put on the full armor of God. But just like David we wear no bronze helmet and carry no kingly sword, for this battle is not ours. The battle is God's and the cross has already won our salvation. It was not David who defeated Goliath, but the Lord. And it is not we who defeat the devil; his head is already crushed! We don't have to take the fight to Satan. We don't have to wield our own sword in hopes of victory. The victory is won, the war is over. Instead, in our baptisms, we put on the full armor of God (or better yet, God puts His full armor on us) to defend us against the final death throes of our defeated enemy. And this armor is sure to protect us because this armor is none other than Christ Jesus Himself. In baptism we put on Christ; and there is nothing that the devil can do to defeat us. *Almighty God, we give You thanks for the victory over the devil that is ours in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16: Our Great High Priest in the Flesh

We often think that Jesus had it easy; that temptation never really tempted Him. But this sort of thinking does away with His humanity. Jesus was man, true man in every way. He was not a superman, He was just like you. The temptations that he felt were real; as real as every single one of yours. He is able to sympathize with your weakness. He knows what it is like to be tempted with sin, to be afraid of the future, and to wish for a different way. Yet in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed that the will of the Father be done. This was so that He could be your high priest; a high priest in the flesh. This was so that He could offer the one sacrifice that covers your sin with sinless blood. This was so that He could ascend to the heavens and intercede for you in the flesh; the very flesh that you wear right now, your very flesh that is overcome by temptation and often falls victim to it. Jesus is your high priest; and that is the greatest comfort in time of temptation. *Dear Jesus, let us draw near to Your throne of grace with confidence. Amen.*