

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:15-16, 1-2, 17-18, 20**

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for He shall pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- | cy on me,*
for I am desolate and af- | flicted.
To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed;
the troubles of my heart | have enlarged;*
bring me out of | my distresses!
Look on my affliction | and my pain,*
and forgive | all my sins.
Keep my soul, and de- | liver me;*
let me not be ashamed, for I put my | trust in You.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 11:28**

Jesus said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty and merciful Father, to look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; 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

Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation

TLH 258, LSB 659

Matthaus Apelles von Lowenstern



1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation.
Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,
Lord God Almighty.
2. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor
faileth;
Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin as-
sailleth;
Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell
prevailleth;
Grant us Thy peace, Lord:
3. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts as-
suaging;
Peace in Thy Church where brothers are
engaging;
Peace when the world its busy war is wag-
ing.
Calm Thy foes' raging.
4. Grant us Thy help till backward they are
driven;
Grant them Thy truth that they may be
forgiven;
Grant peace on earth or, after we have striv-
en,
Peace in Thy heaven.



Around the Word Devotions + February 28-March 5, 2016

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"He Suffered the Opposition of Hell"

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of February 28-March 5, 2016

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Opposition of Hell

The sin against the Holy Spirit is the sin taught in Matthew 12:24 and Luke 11:15. It is the only sin that will not be forgiven, because by it one sins against the very One who is given in the forgiveness of sins, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible sometimes calls the Holy Spirit “the finger of God.” The Lord sends plagues by the finger of God (Exodus 8:19) and Jesus casts out demons by the finger of God (Luke 11:20). Either way, the devil and hell are not equal and opposing powers to God. God has no equals. Satan cannot cast out Satan (Matthew 12:26; Luke 11:18), but Jesus does cast out Satan and defeat the powers of hell, for He crushed the devil’s head by suffering the wages of our sin, which is death. Blessed are those who hear His word and keep it!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:14-28: Hearing His Word and Keeping It

Hearing God’s Word and keeping it go together, and are both the work of the Holy Spirit. By the Word we hear, and by the same Word faith in Christ is created (Romans 10:17). We can hear and not believe, and we can even refuse to hear. When we hear and keep His word faith resides in our heart by the Holy Spirit given to us. By the finger of God, Jesus casts out demons and the kingdom of God comes upon us (Luke 11:20). His death on the cross defeated the power of the devil and hell, and by the giving of His Spirit to us His kingdom comes upon us (Luke 11:20) and we are forgiven and sanctified. *Lord Jesus, cause Your Word to be heard and kept in us by the power of Your finger. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:14-17: Bringing Enmity

Man made enmity (deep-seated ill-will) between himself and God by disbelieving His word and believing the serpent’s word. Man was in fellowship with death and hell. Man was now afraid of God. God changes it up. He makes enmity between the serpent (devil) and the woman, between his seed (sin & death) and her Seed (Jesus). The woman’s Seed will bruise and crush the head of the serpent (devil) while the devil will bruise His heel (Genesis 3:15). All who believe in Him will be saved. His death defeats the power of the devil, death, and hell. All who belong to Him have deep-seated ill-will toward the devil by the power of His Spirit. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word by the power of Your Spirit.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 20:7-10: Satanic Rebellion Crushed

God is the ally of His people. God’s torment is poured out on the devil and all who are with him for the sake of the saints and the beloved city (Revelation 20:9). The devil is not God’s equal and opposite foe. The deceiver is crushed, and the beast and false prophet dwell in the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10). The devil’s head was crushed by Jesus on the cross, and Satan’s deceptions are coming to an end. Even though the camp of the saints and the beloved city of God is surrounded by enemies on all sides, these shall receive the victory already won for them by the atoning death of Jesus. The enemies of God are tormented, but His saints rest secure. *God, keep us under Your protection. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 9:13-14: Rejoicing in the Lord’s Salvation

Psalm 9 is a prayer about the judgment of God. The Lord “sat on the throne judging in righteousness” (9:4). The Lord’s judgment is cause to fear. We are sinners. We are guilty, and by all accounts we deserve the Lord’s condemnation. But because of the cross of Jesus the Lord’s judgment breaks in another direction. The Lord judges us to be holy. The Lord forgives all our sins. The Lord declares us innocent because of the suffering and death and blood of Jesus. So the Lord’s judgment is our life and hope, and our great joy! *Heavenly Father, thank You for judging me in the righteous of Your Son Jesus. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:4-7: Proper Fear of God

There are some who say we should not be afraid of hell. Yet, Jesus teaches the fear of God, saying: “But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!” (Luke 12:5). The devil does not retain the power to destroy both body and soul in hell, God does. We are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things, even above those who can only destroy the body and have nothing more they can do (Luke 12:4). God has power above all, and He values us above all, for Jesus says: Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows (Luke 12:7). God values us through His Son, who suffered death and hell for us. *God, teach us to fear You rightly. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 14:3-11: Fall of the King of Babylon

Hell is excited (Isaiah 14:9) to meet the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4). He is the one who has oppressed God’s people Israel. The Lord breaks the staff of the wicked (Isaiah 14:5). They have no claim over God’s elect. Jacob (Israel) takes up the proverb, speaking the words of judgment and execution against the pomp (Isaiah 14:11) of the king of Babylon. As God protected His people in time of old from the wicked, so He still does so today, having crushed the oppressive rulers by the death of His Son Jesus on the wood of the cross. Death is swallowed up by the death of Jesus, for the Lord gives us rest from our sorrow and hard bondage. *Lord, by Your proverb (Your word) continue judging all the wicked in defense of Your elect. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: James 3:6-9: Set on Fire by Hell

The tongue is a fire (James 3:6)...set on fire by hell (v. 6). The tongue of man is like a fork going in two different directions: With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God (James 3:9). Even the beasts, birds, reptiles and sea creatures have been tamed by mankind (v. 7), but no man can tame the tongue (v. 8). We are tamed, not only by the tongue of our Lord Jesus Christ, but also by His soul and His works. For what His tongue has promised, that He also does, having given Himself as a sacrifice, not only for our tongues, but our whole body and soul. By His word we are justified and sanctified. *God and Father, bless our tongues...our bodies and souls. Amen.*

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