

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 **Luke 14:21c**

“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.”

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



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
 Faithful Father, God of grace,
 That with all our fallen race
 And in our deep degradation
 Thou wast merciful that we
 Might be saved eternally!</p> <p>2. Thy great love for this hath striven
 That we may from sin be free
 And forever live with Thee;
 Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
 And extends an earnest call
 To His Supper unto all.</p> | <p>3. And for this our soul's salvation
 Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
 In Thy Sacraments and Word.
 He imparts true consolation,
 Granteth us the gift of faith
 That we fear nor hell nor death.</p> <p>4. Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me,-
 Truth doth evermore abide,-
 Then in Thee I will confide.
 Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
 My salvation is to me
 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 Holy Spirit calls us into fellowship with God. And in keeping true to His very nature, He freely gives to us the very thing that He calls us to, that He requires of us. "Be perfect," God declares, and then He makes us perfect through Christ. "Be one with each other and with Me," He commands, and then Jesus prays for this very thing on our behalf in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the way of your Lord: to command the impossible and then to give it to you. The Holy Spirit calls you into fellowship/ communion/ unity/ koinonia with God, and then He gives it to you. He makes you one with Him, like bride and groom, in death and in life, in joy and in suffering. And all of this He does in the most comforting of ways: He freely gives, and you simply receive.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:16-24: Fellowship: Sinners Welcomed Into God's House

What a wedding feast! Full of guests that are poor and crippled and blind and lame. No one there to bring an expensive wedding gift. No one to dance until the sun comes up. No one to appreciate the beauty of the ceremony, the flowers and decorations and gorgeous wedding cake. In fact, it seems like everyone who attends would be better suited staying in the streets and lanes of the city where they were found. None of them belong there; not at so rich a banquet. But here they are, invited guests. Here they are, being cheerfully served by the man of the hour. Here they are, the unworthy being made worthy by mere invitation. That is the odd way of our Lord. He graciously welcomes sinners to His wedding feast and then feeds them with His own body and blood, making them one with Him and one with each other. *Dear Father, make us one in Christ. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16: Fellowship: Sinners Credited With The Impossible

"How can a young man keep his way pure?" By guarding it with God's Word, seeking after it with his whole heart, delighting in His testimonies, and meditating on His precepts. Quite the daunting task; even for the good and diligent man. But I am neither. I know myself and I know that the delight of my sinful flesh does not come by hearing and learning God's Word. Instead my flesh despise it and does anything but hold it sacred. And yet there stands Christ before my eyes, fulfilling the Psalms as He fulfills God's Law. This Psalm isn't about me, but about Jesus for me. His righteousness to my credit. His Gospel proclaimed over my sinful head. And then, as mysterious as fruit budding from a flower, the Word of God dwells up in me and produces the earnest desire to delight in God's promises. *Lord, fulfill that which I cannot and then look upon me in mercy. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: I John 3:13-18: Fellowship: The Sinner's Selfless Sacrifice

Love is more than dying for someone. That could almost be too easy; maybe even instinctual. We are called to lay down our life for each other; and this is not just in death but in life. Christ does this for us. He laid down His life on the cross, but His service did not end there. He took it up again. He ascended into heaven. And from there He serves you every day. His Spirit upon you, His Word whispering to you, His water washing you, and His meal filling you. Him serving you never ends. It continues day and night and will until the end of the age and beyond. That is your Lord: a servant. That is you: a servant; for you can't be greater than your master. If He is a servant then so are you. And in this is love; true love. No syrupy-sweet emotion, just pure meaty and sustaining service. *Christ, may Your service to me instill my service for others. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25:6-9: Fellowship With Sinners On The Mountain

During Holy Communion we sometimes sing the hymn Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face. Why? Because we do; at least as much as we can in this temporal world. There is still that veil cast before our eyes; the veil of bread to cover Christ's body and wine to cover His blood. But He is there. Always there. There for you. Communing with you: true unity, true oneness, even if it is under a veil. This is a foretaste of the feast to come. The feast on that mountain where all tears will be wiped away and death will be swallowed up forever. Jesus' promise for you in His Supper is that you receive the same fellowship with Him here on earth as you will in heaven. The only difference is the veil. But the veil doesn't change anything. It is still Jesus. Always Jesus. Jesus for you. *Savior, may I see You face to face both here in time and there in eternity. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:25-35: Fellowship: The Sinner's Burden Of The Cross

"Take up your cross!" This the sinner does. Not because he must make satisfaction for his sin. That was done on the cross of Christ and given to the sinner in Word and Sacrament. No, the sinner takes up his cross because the sinner is forgiven and the forgiven is in the fellowship of the body of Christ, and the body of Christ was nailed to a tree. There is a cost to being part of the body of Christ, "What is due the head is due the body." But in this comes joy. Joy in the fact that through Christ we are deemed worthy to bear our own cross. Joy that for the sake of Christ we will suffer as our Lord did. Joy that the servant is not above his master. Joy that through the sufferings that come in bearing the cross, Christ's cross still comes to sustain us. The joy isn't our cross, but is Christ. *Jesus, may we ever take up our cross and follow You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:14-22: The Fellowship Of Conquering Sinners

This much is promised to you: If you conquer then you will sit with Christ, the Conqueror, on His throne. All you have to do is conquer, to be red-hot for Jesus. But more often than not we are lukewarm. We don't take His counsel. We don't buy refined gold and pure white garments. And for that we are called to repent. The hardships of the cross aren't going to get any easier. The choices will be distinct and neutrality will only get you spit out. But the Lord says all of this to you because He loves you. And love means He laid down His life for you and still to this day serves you in the very midst of persecution. You don't have to go it alone. Christ conquered first and placed everything under His feet; and then He gave it all to you. The victory is complete and sure. He has already made you a conqueror. *Lord, may I be numbered with Your conquering saints. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 9:1-10: Fellowship In Wisdom

Wisdom calls throughout the town, gathering together the simple and all who lack sense. The sinner is not wise, but notice that this is the only one whom Christ is calling. He doesn't call the wise, the healthy, the rich, or the perfect. Instead He calls the foolish, diseased, poor, sinner. He calls you. He calls me. He calls us into His house, right up to His table. He calls us to eat of His bread and drink of His wine. He calls us to fear God and then He gives us the knowledge of the Holy One to do so. Jesus calls us by the Gospel of His cross so that we might hear the Good News and receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. All this He gives to you, here in time and there in eternity. All this He does to make you one with Him and one with your fellow sinner. All this He foolishly does to make you wise in Him. *O God, let us fear You and thus begin to be wise. Amen.*