

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 43:1-2, 3-5

Vindicate | me, O God,*
and plead my cause against an ungodly | nation;
oh, deliver me from the deceitful and | unjust man!*
for You are the God | of my strength; (Psalm 43:1-2)
Oh, send out Your light | and Your truth!*
Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your | holy hill.
Then I will go to the al- | tar of God,*
to God my ex- | ceeding joy.
Why are you cast down, | O my soul?*
And why are you disquieted with- | in me?
Hope in God; for I shall yet | praise Him,*
the help of my countenance | and my God.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Genesis 22:8

Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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
Christ, the Life of All the Living

TLH 151, LSB 420
Ernst Christoph Homburg



1. Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe,-
Through thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6. Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.



"He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers"

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 the Enmity of Unbelievers

In Genesis 3:15 God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed." A curse spoken to the serpent is a blessing for the people of God. The offspring of the woman, the sinless Son of God, has come to crush the head of the serpent. He is your eternal blessing. This week the focus will be on the blessing that you have in Christ Jesus. Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Your servant, Jesus Christ, is your blessing because He breaks the bonds that Satan and sin have over you. Rejoice in your blessings...rejoice in the Lord always.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:1-14 The blessing of the Lamb

Abraham could very well have looked at God's command to sacrifice his only son as a curse. After all, what kind of God demands child sacrifice? But rather than a curse, this is a blessing. Even if Isaac dies, Abraham knows he will live. What at first may look like temptation is truly a test from God leading to a strengthening of faith for both Abraham and Isaac. You have experiences that look like temptations to sin but they may very well be a blessing to you. In a test from God you have the blessing of the coming Lamb. Jesus is your promised Deliverer and He delivers you from both temptation and testing. The Lord provides a Lamb, His only Son, Jesus Christ. *Lord, thank you for providing me a blessing, Your Son Jesus. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32:1-29 The blessing of the True God

The Lord provides, the Lord speaks, the Lord blesses...and then we go and worship our own golden calves. Instead of acknowledging and thanking God for all He gives, we worship the creation instead of the Creator. Our idolatry pushes Jesus further down that road to Calvary. We often seek after false gods in our jobs, family, recreation, possessions, or any number of other things. This brings about great suffering for our Savior, but the blessing of God is that He suffers this because of His great love for you. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He first loved us and gave His life as a ransom for many. *Triune God, direct me towards You and Your eternal blessings. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-21 Love is a blessing

What a blessing it is to be loved when you don't deserve it. You don't deserve the blessing of God that is His love towards you. Rather, you deserve the curse and hatred of God. Instead, Jesus endures the due penalty for your sin. This is the greatest expression of God's love for you and the most spectacular blessing ever given. The suffering and death of Jesus is the fullest expression of God's love for the loveless that "they might loveably be." His undeserved love is our life. *Loving Father, thank You for loving me even when I don't deserve it. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 6 Suffering turned to blessing

It is easy to focus on our own suffering. The Psalmist speaks of his soul being greatly troubled. He is certainly aware of his own sufferings and the enemies that are at his door. The Lord hears this prayer. The answer to our suffering is the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus has delivered us from suffering, so our suffering is turned to a blessing. It produces endurance, character, and hope. Your hope is in Jesus Christ, so the final outcome of your suffering is the sure and certain hope that you be granted release from suffering in eternal life. (See Romans 5:3-4) *Suffering Savior, be with me in my own sufferings. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 The cup of suffering, the cup of blessing

The cup of suffering that Jesus drinks, He drinks down to the dregs. He prayed in Gethsemane that it would pass from before Him but yet, the will of His Heavenly Father be done. He suffers for the sins you have committed that seek after personal glory. He suffers for all the times that you try to abuse the authority that God has granted to you. He drinks the cup of suffering so that He may then give to you the cup of blessing. The cup of blessing is received in Holy Communion as you drink the very blood of your Savior. He turns His suffering into your blessing. *Dear Jesus, Thank You for suffering for me and thereby blessing me. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Micah 4:1-5 The blessing of the Lord's House

The place where you go to hear the Word of the Lord is a place of refuge. It is a place where you have sanctuary from the sufferings of life. The Word of God speaks to the reality of suffering that all people undergo and gives the answer: the place of protection and the place of peace is near to God. To despise the house of the Lord is to despise the healing balm that God has prepared for you. All week you have borne the burden of the specific crosses you have. Now, on Sunday, you will put down your cross and be healed and strengthened by the blessing of the Lord. *Good Shepherd, make my congregation a place of blessing for all repentant sinners. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-11 The Great Reversal

There is a tendency to look down on those who are weak. Muscles are desired, strength of personality is striven for, and leadership cherished. God, however, says that we were weak. When we were weak, Christ died for us that we might be strong in Him. There is a reversal of circumstances by faith in Jesus. The suffering of Jesus is your blessing. His death is your death and His life is your life. He dies for you, the enemy, so that you might become a part of the family of God. Rejoice, for your Jesus has turned His suffering into your blessing. *Jesus, make me to be forever Your dearly beloved child. Amen.*