

“He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers”



**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 **Psalm 27:13**

“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!”

**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



<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</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.

## Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 7-13, 2019

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Enmity of Unbelievers

The Lord promises us that in His Word we have everything we need for faith and a holy life. So we cling to His Word. We cling to it, given to us in our baptism, with His Name placed upon us. We cling to it as it delivers to us Jesus' blood. We cling to it as it gives us promises which are always fulfilled. We cling to it as we confess it before men. We cling to it as it guarantees our salvation in the Means of Grace. And we cling to it even when assaulted by evil and death. So in the end we can confess in the face of it all: "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!"

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 8:46-59 – Sola Scriptura Leading to Life

Sola Scriptura, Scripture Alone, was one of the great rallying cries of the Reformation and is that which brings us to eternal life. "If anyone keeps my word," Jesus says, "he will never see death." That is because through the Scriptures: preached, bound to water in our baptism, connected to the bread and wine, and declared in the Absolution, we have words of eternal life. We have words which forgive sin, raise the new Adam, and bring dead men to life. So, though we die (physically) yet shall we live (eternally) because we have everlasting, life-giving words. Therefore, we cling to and hold fast to those words, as if our lives depend on it, for they do. *Jesus, thank You for Your Word which raises me daily to new life, help me ever to keep it. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 – Looking Our Enemies in the Eye

The Christian has three chief enemies: sin, death, and the devil. They assault us from every angle and bring us all sorts of trouble throughout our days. It is easy to despair of them and give in. But they are defeated. Our Lord has delivered us from those enemies and from all their trouble through the death of Christ, which is the fullness of His might. That victory and salvation is given to us as His name is placed on us in Holy Baptism. Because of that victory, that salvation, and that vindication, we may look upon these enemies; our sin, our forthcoming death, and even the devil, and we may laugh, for in Christ, we triumph. *Heavenly Father, thank You for giving me the victory over my foes through Your Son's death and resurrection. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:11-15 – Eternity-Securing Blood

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were a constant reminder of the sins of the people. Week after week and year after year blood was spilt to forgive the sins of the people. But it was never done. Christ, however, brings His own blood to the altar of the cross, the culmination of all the previous sacrifices, to make a final sacrifice for the sins of all people of all time. That blood purchased us, it redeemed us, from the clutches of the devil who desires our eternal damnation. Because of that blood, we have an eternal redemption, eternal salvation, and an eternal inheritance as God's beloved children. *Lord Jesus Christ, I give You thanks for Your blood, poured out for me, giving me the assurance of everlasting life with You. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3 – A Promise in the Loins

When God promises that "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," He is pointing Abram and us to the blessed promise of His Son, our coming Savior, Jesus. The promise of Jesus lies in the loins of Abraham. There, generations down the line, is Jesus, the promised Messiah, the promised seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent. From that seed, hundreds of years down the line, all the families of the earth receive the great blessing of forgiveness of sins, life everlasting, and eternal salvation. In Abram, even we are blessed this day and every day, because in Abram lies Jesus. *Lord God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to the world as the seed to crush the serpent, and thank You for blessing me through Him. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:32-42 – Confessing Jesus Especially When it's Hard

The devil likes to convince us that things are vital, when they are actually not very important. And those things which are truly vital, he points us away from them. Chief of these is the vital nature of what we say about Jesus. The devil would have us say as little as possible, and should the world point us in another direction, we should confess a Jesus that conforms to the world. But that is to deny Jesus. Confessing Jesus is hard, especially in the face of the devil and the world, which hate him. But we have this great promise, that Jesus is always with us in our true confession of Him, so we need not fear what the devil and world might say about that. *Jesus, bless me with a constant and bold confession of You before the world. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:21-31 – Guaranteed in Christ

One of the greatest temptations the devil can bring upon us is to despair of our salvation. It's easy to do. All the devil has to do is point out the myriad of ways we have broken God's Law and deserved His eternal anger. But the devil always leaves out the important parts, like Jesus and His death. So, in order to fight this temptation, the Lord gives us the Spirit to guarantee our salvation. The guarantee is found in the Spirit's gifts: the Scriptures, Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Altar. All those are external to us. All these gifts rely, not on us, but on God who establishes them for us, for our comfort, and for our salvation. *Lord God, thank You for sending the Spirit with Your life-giving gifts so that I may have certainty and assurance. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 – Kept Safe So We Can See God

Evildoers, and armies, and war, oh my! And the list could go on and on. We have a great multitude of things which fight against the Lord's Christians. But the Lord promises to protect us from them, to hide us in His shelter, to conceal us, to lift us upon a rock. Therefore, we are preserved from all calamity. Nothing they can do can separate us from God in Christ. In the end, though we die, we will be raised on the last day. And so we are left with this final confession in the midst of all adversity: "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!" Such is our faith, and hope, and comfort. *Heavenly Father, I praise You because You will never let me, Your righteous one, fall to my enemies. Amen.*

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