5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14, 9-10

We have thought, O God, on Your loving- / kindness,*
in the midst of Your / temple.
According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends / of the earth;*
Your right hand is full of / righteousness.
Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
God is in her / palaces;*
He is known as her / refuge.
Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Ju- / dah be glad,*
because of Your / judgments.
For this is God, our God forever and / ever;*
He will be our guide even / unto death.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Matthew 7:24

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

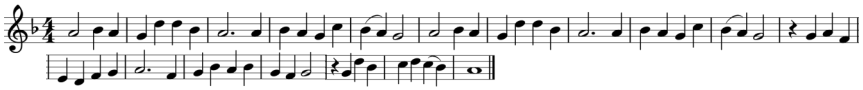
Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold

TLH 260, LSB 745
Martin Luther



1. O Lord, look down from heaven, behold
And let Thy pity waken:
How few are we within Thy Fold,
Thy saints by men forsaken!
True faith seems quenched on every hand,
Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
Dark times have us o'ertaken.

3. May God root out all heresy
And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
That shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail;
What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."

5. As silver tried by fire is pure
From all adulteration,
So through God's Word shall men endure
Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter through the cross,
And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.

Around the Word Devotions + July 26-August 1, 2026

"Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of 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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 26-August 1, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Orthodoxy: Devotion to the Pure Doctrine of God

The Lord promises to take care of what belongs to Him. He provides shepherds, guards against false teachers, makes us His beloved children in Holy Baptism, forgives our sins, comforts us in the midst of sorrow, promises an eternal victory over the wicked, and continues to serve us through His gifts. All this comes to us who are purchased with His holy and precious blood. And through all of this we are made partakers of eternal life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23 – Bearing Proper Fruit

How can we tell who the false teachers are? Jesus tells us to watch for their fruits. And the primary fruit of any teacher is their teaching, their doctrine. In order to rightly distinguish the false from the true teachers we must have our ears attuned to the scriptures. We cannot look at appearances or how charismatic one is. We cannot look at numbers or popularity, because these can all be deceptive. The only true judge of the teacher is God's Word. And in order to rightly judge the doctrine, the fruit, of the teacher, we must ourselves know true doctrine. And this allows us to not only steer clear of the false teachers, but also to draw near to the godly shepherds. *Lord, help me to know Your Word and rightly distinguish between true and false teachers. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Ps 119, eighth part (HETH v57-64) - Returning to the Lord's Ways and Paths

Pure doctrine is a treasure. It's more precious than gold and more beautiful than jewels. David, and all the saints who have prayed this psalm after him, have vowed to cherish the gift, the gift of the instruction of the law and the comfort of the gospel. When temptations and evil desires tarnish our love for the gift, the Lord's favor and help isn't found merely in the resolve to do better, but in the favor of God, the undeserved favor that comes by promise. By faith in this promise, trusting that God is gracious to us for Christ's sake alone, the Christian's feet are turned once again to the testimonies and his lips praise the Lord for His righteous rules. *Grant me repentance and faith, O Lord, to return me to Your ways and paths of righteousness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 – Children of the Heavenly Father

The Lord teaches us that we are His children. We have been rescued from slavery to the devil and his house and brought into the service of the Lord and His house. We belong to Him, having been claimed by Him in our Baptism into His Son. By this we are made His children. And being clothed in His Son, our Lord Jesus, this means we are also heirs with the Son. We are inheritors of what belongs to our Father. Just as in this life we receive an earthly inheritance from our earthly fathers, so now we also receive an eternal inheritance from our heavenly Father. We inherit the kingdom of God, righteousness, peace, and immortality, because we are Children of the Heavenly Father. *Lord, thank You for adopting me as Your child through Your Son. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 – A Bronze Wall Against the Wicked

In Jeremiah 15:16 the prophet tells us that he ate the Lord's Word, and it was the joy and rejoicing of his heart. Now the Lord sets Jeremiah to prophecy against the wicked in Jerusalem. The Lord's Word will be the sadness and sorrow of the wicked. They will fight against the preaching, but Jeremiah will be like a wall made of bronze, his preaching will withstand every attack. Dear friend, the same is true today. The preaching of the Lord's Word continues, and all the devil's attempts to silence it are doomed to fail. The Holy Spirit will continue to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify His Christians until the great last day. *O Lord, grant that we would hear, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Word, the joy and rejoicing of our hearts. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 - Same House, Different Foundations

Jesus ends His sermon on the mount with the parable of two houses. One was built on a rock-solid foundation. The other was built on sand. Both looked nice, at least for a time, but when the storms came, the rain fell, and the wind blew, one house stood, and the other fell. So it is, Jesus says, with us. The one who hears the words of Jesus and does them has their house built on the rock; they will endure temptation; they will persevere through trouble. They will stand, and, at last, on the judgment day, they will stand on the unmoving promise of the forgiveness of all sins through the cross of Christ. *O Lord, stand us up on the bedrock of the Gospel and the confidence of Your Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 – Courage to Declare the Whole Council of God

Before going to Jerusalem, Paul calls the Ephesian pastors together and preaches one last sermon to the shepherds of the sheep. He tells them that he is innocent of their blood. Why? He has held back not one shred of Christian doctrine. Every part of God's Word, from the acceptable to the offensive, was held forth without shame. Your pastor must do the same. Wolves are attacking the sheep with human ideas that diminish the severity of the law and the sweetness of the gospel, that jettison the "unreasonable" teachings that comfort consciences and glorify Christ. Pray for your shepherds. Pray that the Lord grant them courage to feed the sheep with the whole council of God. *O Lord, grant that my pastors teach me Your Word without fear. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 – Weeping Turned to Joy

In this life we will have trouble. In this life we will have sorrow, and pain, and sickness, and even death. These are the things which constantly plague us and follow after us. But in the midst of this weeping and trouble we have the joy of the Lord. We are promised that these things will not last. That they are temporary. And so now, as we endure these things we have joy running alongside them to sustain us until we at last attain the crown of righteousness. Then, we who have gone out weeping will come into the eternal home of the Lord with shouts of joy. *Lord, keep me in Your joy in the midst of sorrow, looking to the eternal joy of Your kingdom. Amen.*

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