

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 54:4-5, 1-3, 7

Behold, God is my / helper;*
the Lord is with those who up- / hold my life.
He will repay my enemies for their / evil.*
Cut them off / in Your truth.
Save me, O God, / by Your name,*
and vindicate me / by Your strength.
Hear my / prayer, O God;*
give ear to the words / of my mouth.
For strangers have risen up a- / gainst me,*
they have not set God be- / fore them.
He has delivered me out of all / trouble;*
and my eye has seen its desire upon my / enemies.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 12:34

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

One Thing's Needful; Lord, This Treasure

TLH 366, LSB 536

Johann H. Schroeder



1. One thing's needful; Lord this treasure
Teach me highly to regard;
All else, though it first give pleasure,
Is a yoke that presses hard.
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striv-
ing,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
The gain of this one thing all loss can requite
And teach me in all things to find true de-
light.

6. Wilt thou find this one thing needful,
Turn from all created things
Unto Jesus and be heedful
Of the blessed joy He brings.
For where God and Man both in one are united,
With God's perfect fullness the heart is de-
lighted;
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,
My One and my All and my Joy and my Rest.



Around the Word Devotions + August 2-8, 2026

"Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts"

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 August 2-8, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Faithful Stewardship of Earthly Gifts

The Lord has given us many things in this life. He lavishes us with wealth, various possessions, family, friends, co-workers, etc. These gifts serve two purposes. First, God gives them so we might serve our neighbor. Second, the Lord desires us to spend our money in support of the Gospel's ministry by which men are saved. Above all, the Lord has given into our possession His most wonderful gift, His Word. When the Holy Spirit uses our tithes and offerings to scatter the Seed of the Word widely, we gather neighbors for ourselves in the resurrection. In all these things, the Lord expects us to be good and faithful stewards of what He gives and to use all things for His glory.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9 Unrighteous Wealth / Righteous Neighbors

"Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth." It seems so strange of Jesus to say such a thing. After all, we know all too well the warnings concerning the deceitfulness of riches, of worshiping money, of loving money. But we should remember that the Lord uses the things of this world to work for the good of those who love Him. He uses the means of unrighteous wealth to provide for the preaching of the gospel, to ensure His gifts are given, and especially to make sure that more people are brought into His eternal kingdom. He uses our unrighteous wealth to make sure that we will have righteous neighbors in the resurrection. *Lord, grant that I may use what You give to me in the service of Your Word and my neighbor. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: INTRODUCTION to Psalm 119:65-72 (TETH) God's Word Lights Our Path to His Kingdom

God is good, and so His Word is good and trustworthy. The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and light to our path. It teaches us to love Christ Who has given His life to save us from sin, death and the devil. God's Word gives us joy in the midst of woe and hope in this veil of tears. It is more precious than silver and gold. We use it to sanctify every day. Mammon perishes, but the Word of the Lord endures forever. Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it, for they are heirs of the kingdom of God.

Lord, God, always keep us steadfast in Your wholesome Word that is able to make us wise unto salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 Examples for Us

A house divided cannot stand (Mark 3:25). The same is true of the human heart. We have this idea that we can serve two masters, both the priorities of the world and our heavenly Father. We are tempted to divide our time on Sundays so the kids can play with their traveling sports team, assuming they will catch up on Catechism and church stuff later. It is not that we are shouting that we hate God. It is just hard to fit church into the list of other priorities. Remember Israel. Remember their folly. Their hearts were divided over sexuality, the desire for Egyptian comfort, and for better leaders. Because they devoted themselves to the world and their flesh, they could not enter the promised land. *Unite my heart to fear Your name and forgive me for Christ's sake. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Everything is God's

David's fantastic prayer is in the context of the offerings brought for the building of the Temple. The people brought money, bronze, silver, gold, and everything that was needed to build it. But what David recognizes is that none of those things ever ceased being the Lord's in the first place. "For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours." We should remember this. Everything belongs to God. Everything we have in this life is His, given into our hands so that we would live and serve our neighbor with those gifts. The Gospel is served by them, as it was in the building of the temple. That is the reason they have been created. *Lord, may I always use what is Yours for Your glory. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:32-48 Like Men Who Are Waiting

Whether you are a mother, father, husband, wife, son, daughter, or worker, Jesus has given you things to do. According to your calling as Christian, you are to hear the Word and believe it. According to your calling as parent, you are to bring your kids up in the Lord's Word and feed them sometimes. According to your calling as pastor, you are to preach the Word boldly and without fear. If you are a son or daughter, obey. Jesus calls us blessed if He finds us working when He comes back on the Last Day. But woe to us if we give in to sloth and abuse. Thanks be to God! The Lord provides the wakefulness of faith to watch for His coming, to be about our duties, and to receive His return with joy. *Grant me wakefulness to wait with faith and hope, O Lord. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:3-14 On Guarding the Deposit of the Faith

Raising up young Timothy as his 'vicar,' St. Paul instructed him in great detail on the doctrine of the apostles, using the Old Testament as his required textbook and the New Testament as sermons on the Old. These sacred words, along with their fulfillment in the person and work of Christ, are a sacred deposit that must be guarded with more vigor than the legendary Knights Templar guarded the Holy Chalice from the Last Supper. Thus does your pastor faithfully instruct young and old in Christian doctrine to guard you from false teaching and to guide you to the green pastures of the pure gospel and sacraments. *In faith, Lord, let me serve Thee; Tho' persecution, grief, and pain should seek to overwhelm me, Let me a steadfast trust retain (TLH 381.1). Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 You Know

This psalm is a prayer to the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of the saints. Knowing God is everywhere and involved in everything can create two distinct reactions depending on the state of one's conscience. If your conscience is bad, troubled by guilt and shame, God's presence is terrifying. He brings judgment and wrath. But if your conscience is good, put at peace by the knowledge of Jesus' sufficient sacrifice and His intercession for us with the Father, then God's presence is comfort and help. God be praised! Through baptism we have inherited the sonship from God, not wrath and destruction. God's presence, because he has been reconciled to us through His Son's blood, only gives joy and peace. *Lead me in the way everlasting! Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's authors are Pastor Flamme, Pastor Hamer, Pastor Kilgo, and Pastor Traphagan.

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support