

## 5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.\*  
He has redeemed my / soul in peace.  
Cast your burden / on the Lord,\*  
and He shall sus- / tain you.  
Give ear to my / prayer, O God,\*  
and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.  
My heart is severely pained with- / in me,\*  
and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.  
Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,\*  
and horror has over- / whelmed me.  
I will pray, and / cry aloud,\*  
and the Lord shall / save me.

## 6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 143:8

“Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.”

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

## 8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## 9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

## 10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

TLH 1, LSB 901  
Benjamin Schmolk



1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
Where my soul in joyful duty  
Waits for Him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee, Come Thou  
also unto me;  
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a  
heaven on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter Thou,  
Let it be Thy temple now!

3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy  
seed is duly sown;  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be  
Fruitful unto life in me.

4. Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me  
keep Thy gift divine,  
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life,  
As my comfort in my strife.



Around the Word Devotions + August 9-15, 2026

“The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit”

## 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 9-15, 2026

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

To worship God is to come into His presence and receive the gifts that He bestows. The response to those gifts is to acknowledge where they have come from, thank Him for what He gives, sing His Word back to Him, and pray. Man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3) so we find our life in the hearing of God's Word. Worship should be the pinnacle of our days and weeks because we are receiving the gifts that give life. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and receive all that the Lord loves to give.

SUN

#### SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48 Wrath and Mercy

In 70 AD, the Roman general Titus would lay siege to the city of Jerusalem for five months, eventually capturing the city and razing the Temple to the ground. Tens of thousands of the inhabitants would perish. Forty years earlier, upon seeing Jerusalem from the heights of the Mount of Olives, Jesus would weep for it because he saw the destruction that will come upon it, a destruction which comes because they refused repentance - "because you did not know the time of your visitation". The wrath of God is real, but so is His mercy in the gospel. You have been visited by Jesus in the preaching of His word which forgives sins. Repent and believe the gospel that you would live eternally. *Lord, I believe! Have mercy on me! Amen.*

MON

#### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80 Faithful Afflictions

There is a curious phrase in this text where we pray, "and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me." Affliction coming from our Lord? Now that sounds a little off-putting. But at closer examination we realize that nothing could be closer to the truth. Our Lord afflicts us, but not as a tyrant or as a heartless child burning ants with a magnifying glass. No, according to His faithfulness our Lord afflicts us, as a loving Father chastises His children in order to draw them back to Him. We pray to our loving Father, Who has made and fashioned us and Who gives us understanding to learn His commandments and delight in His Word. So that in His mercy we may live and that we may love His law. *Merciful Father, may we meditate and delight in Your precepts alone. Amen.*

TUE

#### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 One Spirit, Many Gifts

Our Lord gives gifts. Some of His gifts are for the benefit of our individual souls, while other gifts are for the benefit of our neighbor. When we are talking about spiritual gifts and spiritual service, these are all for the good of our neighbor. We dare not glory in the gift apart from the Giver as if the gift is inherently ours and we are therefore better than the next. If that be the case, then we are misusing the gifts given to us and we are not only sinning against God, but against our neighbor as well. Delight in the gifts and service that the Lord has given to you, whatever they may be. But delight in them knowing that your Lord has given those gifts to you so that He can serve your neighbor through them. Give thanks to the one Spirit who gives all gifts as He wills, and delight in the service to your neighbor. *Holy Spirit, grant me Your gifts that I may serve my neighbor. Amen.*

WED

#### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-7 The Temple of the Lord

The Israelites had come to misuse the Temple. They would run to the Temple (literally and metaphorically) in order to excuse their sin, their false belief, and their mistreatment of others. It was a sort of "Get out of jail free" card which they tried to play every time they sinned. The gifts given at the Temple were no longer seen as forgiveness, but as permission. But the Lord is no fool! The Gospel does not negate the Law and render it void. The Gospel renders the sinner justified and forgiven and then upholds the Law as good and righteous and holy. We dare not test the Lord by using the Gospel as an excuse to transgress the Law. This will not end well. Instead, may we joyfully delight in the Law of God and then run to the Gospel when we fall short; trusting in forgiveness, not permission. *Gracious God, may we delight in Your Word, both Law and Gospel. Amen.*

THU

#### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:16-24 Justified by Jesus' Deeds

The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him. That's why neither John nor Jesus was accepted in their day. But those who saw Jesus' mighty works and still rejected Him in unbelief will face greater judgment. God forbid that of us! Instead, let us who have heard the Word of the Lord and received His Sacraments remain steadfast, both in repentance over our sin and in faith in Christ Who has truly justified us by deeds: His sinless life, His all-atoning death, and His glorious resurrection. *Almighty God, deliver us from the day of judgment for Jesus' sake alone. Amen.*

FRI

#### SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15 "Hardness of Heart"

"No man is an island unto himself" wrote the poet and Anglican priest John Donne. We are made for others. The man who is an island, separated from others and alone has no one to serve in Christian love, but also has no one to serve him, to support him, to encourage him. He is alone and that is exactly where the Devil wants us to be. The preacher of Hebrews teaches his congregation (and us) to "exhort one another daily, while it is called 'today' lest any of you be hardened..." (vs. 13). This is what your congregation is for. Look out for one another, pray for one another, encourage one another. Alone you are weak, together with your congregation, the body of Christ, you are strong in the Lord. *Lord, thank You for my family in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

#### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 Hear My Prayer, O Lord

This Psalm is Christ's own prayer through the mouth of His saints, shaped by three key verbs. God will hear you when you call upon His name, for He is your true Father and you are His true child, who can ask Him with all boldness and confidence. He will answer you quickly, for He has taught you to pray in this way, knowing that every petition is written in Jesus' shed blood. And He will deliver you from every evil of body and soul and grant you a blessed end, for Jesus' sake. Confident in the good news of God's once-for-all judgment on His Son and resting in His Divine clemency, let us conclude the week with the opening petitions of the Litany: *O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, hear us. Amen.*

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