

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13

Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
for I cry to You / all day long.
For You, Lord, are good, and ready / to forgive,*
and abundant in mercy to all those who call up- / on You.
Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
for I am poor and / needy.
In the day of my trouble I will call up- / on You,*
for You will / answer me.
I will praise You, O Lord my God, with / all my heart,*
and I will glorify Your name for- / evermore.
For great is Your mer- / cy toward me,*
and You have delivered my soul from the / depths of Hell.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 8:18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may be continually given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK The Will of God is Always Best

TLH 517, LSB 758

Albrecht von Brandenburg



1. The will of God is always best
And shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest,
He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed in time of need,
He chastens with forbearing;
They who depend on God, their Friend,
Shall not be left despairing.

2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,
My Hope and life abiding;
And to His counsel wise and just,
I yield in Him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares,
Upon my head He numbers.
By night and day God is my Stay,
He never sleeps nor slumbers.



Around the Word Devotions + September 20-26, 2026

“Perseverance in Glorifying 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 September 20-26, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Perseverance in Glorifying God

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people." He visited in Nain, where He raised the dead. We await His second visitation, where His glory will be revealed fully in our own resurrections. In this time between His visitations, we persevere in glorifying Him. We do it by hearing His Word, by praising His goodness, by confessing our sins and His truth. We also do it in hope, the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of all flesh at the last day. His redemption and visitation mean our resurrection is sure, just as His is sure. "We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 — Jesus is Unclean

Jesus touched the bier. That little detail might get overlooked in all the commotion of today's reading. But this little detail is not unimportant. Doing so made Jesus, at least according to the Mosaic Law, unclean. It was one thing for the bearers to carry the dead body and its coffin, for this was necessary and they were called to do so. But most certainly a hush and a murmuring ran through the crowd when Jesus touched the bier. This Jesus touches death, becomes "unclean" for this young man, in order that He would take its curse upon His body. And also for us. In His resurrection Jesus is Lord of death. Death could not hold this young man. And it will not hold you either. *Jesus, call me out of my grave on the last day that I may see You face to face! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 — Certainty in His Word

Our eyes long for Christ's salvation and the fulfillment of His righteous promise. In the meantime, we face a world that neither fears nor glorifies Him. The Lord has given us certainty in His Word. He has given us Baptism as the pledge of a clean conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus. He has given us His Testament, His Body and Blood as a guarantee. Against naysayers and doubters, those who abandon the truth in this waning world, we hold to the Lord's Word, to the testimony. The Lord's Word is gold that survives every fire's testing. *Lord, be surety to us for good. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 Love, God's Glory

The glory of God is His love, and it is unfathomable—unknowable; yet, Paul bows His knees to pray that we and all the saints would know it. How can you know what is unknowable? Only in Christ and by faith. To have Christ by faith, trusting the promises of God's concrete love for us in Christ's death and resurrection, is to have all of God's glory. It is given to us in Jesus. Thus there is glory "in the Church," as St. Paul says. What humans cannot comprehend—God's glory—is still ours to have, keep, and benefit from. *Lord, root me by faith in Your Son, in whom Your surpassing love is known. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 — God Kills and Makes Alive

There is no God but the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He says, "...I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal..." (Deut. 32:39). At first glance, the order appears to be backward. We live first and then we die. Yet, God does things differently. Through the Law, He first kills us by revealing the depth of our sin and the death we rightly deserve. And then, in the promise of the Gospel, He raises us to newness of life through the forgiveness of sins. So, the Lord's order is right. He first kills and then makes alive, because the life He gives will never end. *O Lord, kill my sinful flesh through the preaching of the Law so that You may bring me to life through Your Gospel. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 — Jesus, The Resurrection, The Life

This conversation between Jesus and Martha has comforted Christians for centuries. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. All who believe in Him will live forever. Jesus only needs to speak a word, and the bars of death are broken; the bond of death is loosed. Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave, and He will do the same for you. If Jesus waits to return, each of us will have to breathe our last and die. It is the way of all flesh. We will be dressed in grave clothes and be put in a tomb. We will be mourned. We will stink. But Jesus, who loves us also, and who weeps at our death, will stand on the earth, and the dead will hear His voice and come forth. He is the Resurrection. He is the Life that never ends. *Jesus, be my Resurrection and my Life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28—In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive

Our eyes behold sickness and death. We see men overcome by the weakness of their flesh as they sin against one another. We see death swallowing up life. Though our eyes cannot see it, Christ's resurrection is greater in power and scope than the deadly effects of Adam's sin. St. Paul tells the Romans, "If many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many" (5:15). The day is coming when we will rejoice to see Jesus reigning with death under His feet. We will see and rejoice at the host of saints gathered from across the continents and centuries who have followed their Captain in victory from death to life. *Grant me steadfast faith to share in Jesus' victory. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36

Jesus speaks of the human heart and the human mouth as a fountain of death. We are dying, and the things we do and say bring forth death. But with the Lord is "the fountain of life." His works and His words bring forth life. In fact, the words of God are so full of life that they make the dead to be raised, and, even more wonderfully, they make sinners to be righteous and holy. *O LORD, You give us to drink from the fountain of Your pleasures, for with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Oh continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Amen.*

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

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 Daenzer, Pastor Flamme, Pastor Grieve, Pastor Jennings, Pastor Ross, and Pastor Wolfrummueller.