

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 34:3b; 34:17; 48:14a; 78:1-3, 4b

Say to my soul, "I am your sal- / vation."*

The righteous cry out, and the / Lord hears.

He delivers them out of all their / troubles.*

For this is God, our God forever and / ever.

Give ear, O my people, / to my law;*

incline your ears to the words / of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a / parable;*

I will utter dark say- / ings of old,

which we have / heard and known,*

and our fathers have / told us.

We will tell the generation to come the praises / of the Lord,*

and His strength and His wonderful works that / He has done.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 20:22-23

The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we implore You, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready, both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that You would have done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

Yea, As I Live, Jehovah Saith

TLH 331, LSB 614

Nikolaus Herman



Around the Word Devotions + the week of October 11-17, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Flesh Led by the Devil

This week's devotions lead us to mark two things: First, that the life of faith is full of crosses and difficulties, for which we flee to the mercy of God in Christ for forgiveness and grace. Second, that the fruit of faith and trust in Christ Jesus is the continual putting to death of the old man in us, which does not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come. Having been put into Christ by baptism, we continually strive against the flesh, the world, and the devil.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 9:1-8 Forgiveness is More than Mental Exercise

The flesh, even the mind, is trapped by the natural law: paralytics do not walk because their sins are forgiven. If they do, paralytics walk again because of medicine. Restored flesh coming by means of the forgiveness of sins is a medical and theological impossibility for the scribes, and for most people. The forgiveness of sins received by faith in the Absolution is healing for the guilty conscience, but it also promises the restoration of our flesh in the new creation. Even as the consequences of sin mean our flesh breaks down in time, we never cease giving praise and glory to God, Who has restored our flesh in His fleshly Christ for all eternity. *Lord, let my mind and body be conformed to the authority of forgiveness. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:145-152 Faith and Works

With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord! We cry to God and He hears and answers us. Faith is confident that in our distress, no matter what it is, it is the Lord Who hears our prayer and will answer. It says *"I call to You; save me..."* for there is no salvation in our merits or deeds, but only in the lovingkindness of the Triune God. But that faith also says *"I will keep Your statutes...I hope in Your Word,"* for these two go hand in hand, faith and the desire to resist sin and embrace the goodness of the Word of God. We are not saved by our keeping of the Law, and at the same time faith delights in who God is, His ways, and His purposes for our life. *Lord Jesus, keep me in the true faith that I may delight in Your promises and observe Your testimonies. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:22-28 You Were Taught in Jesus

The unbeliever's life is one of futility and darkness, and so was ours at one time. But now we have been taught in Christ Jesus to put off the old self, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and to put on the new self. This happens each day as we confess our sins, believe that they are forgiven for Jesus' sake, and walk in a new life of love for God and our neighbor. *O God, grant me true repentance for my sins and faith in Jesus each day. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 44:21-23 Return to Me

Are my sins too great or have I back-slid too many times that God is angry with me? The Lord reminds us through Isaiah that it is He Who redeems us and calls us by name. It is He who blots out our iniquities and our sins "like a mist." There is no sin too great that it cannot be blotted out by the Lord's steadfast love. It is for this reason that He says to Jacob and Israel, His holy Church, and you, dear Christian soul, "return to me." You who are far gone and separated from Him, you have no need to fear. Return to His fellowship. You are loved. Even the heavens and the earth break forth in song at the Lord's redemption for you. It is yours. There is no mistake. *Lord Jesus, You have redeemed me. May I sing for joy at Your love. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-51 Ears Glimpsing Heaven

You probably know someone who has said, "if I had seen Jesus in the flesh, it would be so easy to believe!" Before responding with Luke 16:29, hear with your ears John's preaching: "Behold the Lamb of God!" Andrew and Peter heard the gospel with their ears, "the Lamb Who takes away the sin of the world!" They heard the gospel, and so did Philip and Nathanael, and believed. After hearing Jesus say to them, "Come and see." Our eyes yearn to see the glorified Christ, but it is through our ears that the Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens us through the Word of Christ. We walk by faith, and not by sight, it is true, but we do indeed hear His gracious words, for in them He is near. *Lord, open Your heaven by Your Word that I may see You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 One Body, One Spirit

St. Paul is driving a stake through the idea that would cause Christians to despise one another for any reason. We are all one body, for we all have been made to drink of one Spirit. Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, pastoral or lay, we are all one body as the Church with many members, Christ being our divine head. We were all brought to the same font and baptized with the name of the Triune God. Thus, the variety of peoples, cultures, economic standings, offices, and gifts is not a hurdle to be overcome but embraced, that there would be no division in the body of Christ, bound together in the unity of the truth of God's Word. *Lord Jesus, help us to see our neighbor as our brother in Christ, that we would rejoice together in Your salvation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 61 The Shelter of His Wings

When our hearts are faint, our only refuge is the Lord God Almighty. We should be confident that He will defend us in every time of need because He was willing to be crucified for us. Jesus purchased and won us by His blood that we may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom. We dwell in safety under the shelter of His wings, serving Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, ever singing praises to His Name. *Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer, and let me dwell in Your tent forever. Amen.*

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