

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Prayer of Azariah 1:4, 7, 20, 19; Psalm 48:1, 9-11

The Lord is righteous in all His / works toward us,*
 for we have not obeyed His com- / mandments.
 Glorify Your / Name, O Lord:*
 and deal with us according to Your great / mercy.
 Great is the Lord, and greatly / to be praised*
 in the city of our God, in His holy / mountain.
 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.*
 Let Mount Zion rejoice, Because of Your / judgments.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 57:1

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.”

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant, we implore You, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; 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 Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness

TLH 305, LSB 636
 Johann Franck



Around the Word Devotions + the week of October 18-24, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the Flesh At Home in the World

The flesh is frighteningly powerful in its urges, fixations, and obsessions. It desires men's praise. It desires our neighbor's wildly successful career, spouse, and vacation home. Most often, the flesh wants to indulge itself in sloth because of its bored indifference with all things good and sacred. When our passions run wild through our hearts, our desires become chains that enslave our every waking moment. The flesh is never sated. It always demands more. How can we be set free? The Lord contends against the flesh with His Holy Spirit. He creates new hearts within us. He crucifies our flesh and teaches us to resist with prayer in Jesus' name.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:1-14 A Necessary Garment

What a roller coaster. There's a wedding but the guests refuse to come. The servants are murdered and the Lord judges against those who were invited. Then the wedding is full, but there is the guest without his garment thrown into outer darkness. It's a lot to take in. Israel is the invited guest. The servants are the prophets, rejected and abused. The church is the strange guests. We only fit in at this feast because of the wedding garments provided by the king. This garment is the robe of Christ's righteousness made white by the Lamb's blood (Revelation 7:14) given to us in baptism (Galatians 3:26). Clothed in these robes we are not ashamed to stand before the LORD. *O Lord, wrap us tightly in the robe of Christ's righteousness. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, twentieth part (RESH v153-160) The Entirety of Your Word

The Lord's Word is our treasure, our joy, our wisdom, our light. And each word of the Scriptures is a gift. This is what David prays in the last verse of our reading. "The *entirety* of Your Word is true." We don't have to hunt and peck around God's Word to find the parts that are true. We don't have to sort out which chapters to believe and which promises to trust. We don't believe that the Bible is a mixture of God's Words and man's words. No. The entirety of His Word is true, and even more, the entirety of His word is *truth*. Our faith rests on the trustworthiness of God Who has spoken to us of His kindness and love through His word. *Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:15-21 Walking in Wisdom: Giving Thanks

By the power of the Spirit the Christian "gives thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." More than gratitude, when sees the goodness of the gift, the Christian is thankful. We recognize the goodness of the gift. We know that no matter what comes our way, God is our friend, Jesus is our Savior, and all things are working together for the good of those who love God. Thankfulness is a vital part of our Spiritual wisdom. We know that the most important things in life are the things the Lord has already accomplished for us, and our hearts sing with joy for His lovingkindness. *O Lord, fill us with Your Spirit, fill our hearts and minds with thanks. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 65:1, 2 The LORD Has Stretched Out His Hand

There was always a danger in Jerusalem that the people there thought the LORD only loved them. "No," the LORD preaches. I'm seeking people who didn't ask for Me. I say "Here I am" to a nation not called by My name. The Maker of this world is the Redeemer of the world. He is after all people, even you. And for you: I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people." Because we fail, the Lord stretches out His hand to help us up. Because we're being attacked, He stretches out His hands to fight and defend us. Most importantly, because we are dying sinners, He stretches out His hands to the nails of the cross, and saves us. *Thank You, O LORD, for seeking and finding me. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:28-44 Of Love for the Pharisees

We often hear how Jesus loved the sinners and distained the Pharisees. This is wrong. Jesus loves the Pharisees. He sees the danger they face, the danger of their pride and their impending judgment. He comes after them with these parables, with this severe preaching of the law to try to win their hearts and rescue them. "Look at the tenants," Jesus says, "their foolishness, the insanity that murdering the son would gain the inheritance." Jesus is calling them to their senses, calling them to repentance. "If the Stone falls on you you will be crushed. The broken and contrite spirit the Lord will not despise." This is also for us. The Lord casts down the haughty, but rescues those of humble faith. *Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 11: 25-32

Salvation is a matter of God's mercy. It is a gift, completely unearned. This was a problem for the Pharisees, and for all of us who have a little Pharisee living in our hearts. We think we are good enough, that our works are deserving of God's gifts, that we have earned something from God. The Lord won't have it. Salvation is not, will not, and cannot be earned. The Lord has committed all to disobedience (that's what verse 32 says), consigned all to guilt, declared all as law-breakers, to make sure that no one has a claim on salvation. Why? The Lord wants grace alone to save. "God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all." His mercy is on you. *I thank You, My heavenly Father, for Your gift of life and salvation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 57 For in You My Soul Takes Refuge

Using your Bible's cross reference, you'll discover the context is from David's flight to escape Saul in the cave of Adullam in 1 Samuel 22. The Holy Spirit has recorded David's prayer as a model for your own prayers in times of distress. See how quickly David casts himself on the Lord's mercy! Isn't he worried that the Lord holds some sin against him? Isn't he worried that the Lord won't hear him? Not at all. He is certain of the Lord's kindness. The Lord has promised him great things. The Lord doesn't lie. You also should trust in what the Lord has spoken to you. Jesus died for you. You are God's own child. God will bless you in this world and give you eternal life in the world to come. *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Amen.*

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