5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Apocraphal Esther 13:9–11; (Psalm 119:1, 38–40)

The whole world is / in Your power;*
O Lord, King Almighty, no one can / gainsay You.
For You have made / heav'n and earth;*
You are / Lord of all!
Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
who walk in the law / of the Lord!
Establish Your word to Your / servant,*
who is devoted to / fearing You.
Turn away my reproach / which I dread,*
for Your judg- / ments are good.
Behold, I long for Your / precepts;*
revive me in Your / righteousness.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Ephesians 6:13**

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, we implore You to keep Your household the Church in continual godliness, that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; 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

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

TLH 261, LSB 655
Martin Luther

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.

2. Lord Jesus Christ,Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.

3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Around the Word Devotions + October 25-31, 2026

"Resisting the World Rules by the Devil"

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 October 25-31, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Resisting the World Ruled by the Devil

You might think that God's elect would have special perks and advantages in life, kind of like how a good job comes with a company car and quality health care. But your baptism doesn't deliver you from worldly peril and misfortune. God's elect are surrounded by the world that hates them (John 15:18). They are stalked by that old, ravenous lion, the devil (1 Peter 5:8). Their own flesh betrays them with the corrupt desires (Ephesians 4:22). You're not alone. The Victor over death is with you (Matthew 28:20). The promises of God's mercy, made powerful by the blood of Jesus, will not fail you. Take heart. The Lord of hosts will not forsake you.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 4:46-54 "Hearing is Believing"

The devil tempts Christians to think that 'seeing is believing.' Not only do we hear that axiom frequently, its truth is almost unquestionable. We assume that if God wants to strengthen our faith, then he'll send special signs, miracles, and wonders to confirm His grace. But think about how Jesus confirmed Himself to the official in the story. He sent him a sick son to the point of death. He lamented men's desire for signs and wonders, and then gives the official His Word, a promise of God's mercy. The official saw no sign. He didn't witness a wonder. All he had was a promise. That was enough. Jesus' Word did not fail. His son, whom the father couldn't see, was healed as Jesus' spoke. *Grant me faith in Your Word, O Lord, that it may be my comfort. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:161-168 (SIN & SHIN) "David's Faith"

We all have enemies, people who wish us ill. Maybe they give you dirty looks and cold shoulders when you run into them at the grocery store. Maybe they slander you behind your back. Imagine having princes, an entire government with all its power, intent on destroying you. So it was for David. Saul hated him. He and his armies pursued David with murderous intent. Despite the disastrous violence he saw and experienced with his eyes, David said to the Lord, "My heart stands in awe of Your words." This is faith. This is comfort that withstands everything that devil, world, and flesh throw at us. Learn from David. Find your spoil and treasure in God's Word. *Grant me faith to lay up for myself treasures in heaven, O Lord. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-17 "Standing Against the Devil"

It's the devil's aim to make the Lord's Christians fall. So the Lord clothes us in our baptism with this wonderful armament to protect us: Truth, Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, and the Word of God. This armor not only allows us to resist the schemes and fiery darts of the evil one, but to remain standing, so that after the battle has raged on and on, and the dust finally settles, there will be the Lord's Christians, standing firm, having withstood the devil's onslaught. We stand, not because we're strong in ourselves, but because we have the strength of the Lord's Word, and because the Word incarnate fights on our behalf. *Lord Jesus, Who holds the field forever, protect us all our days from the craftiness of the devil. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Hosea 13:14 "Death Without Its Sting"

Death's appetite is insatiable. It devours the great and small. It consumes both the rich and the poor. Its ravenous power can even offend conscience by how both the righteous and wicked are treated the same. How can this be fair? It's fair because death had a claim on our bodies and souls. Sin gave death its sting. The power of sin was the law's just and right accusation. You were unrighteous. Death was your sentence. Take heart. The price has been paid, not by you, but by Jesus. His blood has ransomed you from the power of Sheol and redeemed you from death. The Lord showed no mercy for death but gives all His mercy to you. You will live. The plagues are ending. The sting is gone. Christ is risen. *Grant me resurrection hope, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 4:31-42 "Eating God's Will"

Jesus' food is to do the Father's will. And, incredibly, that serves as our food also. We remember when Luther explains the 3rd Petition, we're taught that God's will has to do especially with the breaking of the devil's scheming against us, and the keeping us firm in His Word. This is our food. We live and breathe and have our being in the Lord's providing for us. On the one hand, He provides protection against the devil through the pure teaching of His Word. On the other hand, He forgives us, teaches us, grants and sustains our faith, also through the pure teaching of His Word. We are satisfied, not by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. *Lord, thank You for Your provision of God's Word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:7-13 "The Church's Treasure"

The church in Philadelphia is one of only two churches not rebuked in the beginning of the book. The thing they both have in common is this: they keep God's Word. They cherish it. They treasure it. It is their greatest possession. The Lord here commends the church for keeping His Word, even though they are weak. This brings great comfort to us, especially in this day in which the Lord's Church is so often viewed as weak and powerless. Instead, we know the truth: that we have in God's Word the strongest fortress, and the one thing which leads through the open door to eternal life, and that which will allow us to endure every assault and trial. *Dear Jesus, help me always to abide in and keep Your Word as my greatest treasure. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:1-13 "A Psalm for the Troubled in Spirit"

This is a psalm of prayer for Christians who are troubled by abandonment, sorrow, hatred from enemies, and death. It's especially good to remember and pray this psalm when the fiery trials, which we've been considering this week, come upon you. In times of quiet, contentment, and leisure, it's easy to remember the Lord, His mercy, and His Word. But all our discipline, memories, and comfort flee us as soon as the devil hints at the pains we're about to feel. God's voice is drowned out by all the noise. Thanks be to God for Christian brothers, sisters, and faithful pastors who visit us, not merely with good wishes, but with God's Word when we need it most. *Make us strong, and let our hearts take courage, as we wait for You, O Lord. Amen.*

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