5 PRAY THE **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Stir up, we implore You, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works, may of You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Then pray for ourselves and others, and close with Luther's 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.

6 SING OR SAY THE **HYMN OF THE WEEK** *TLH 590 · LSB 755*

In the Midst of Earthly Life (Martin Luther)

1. In the midst of earthly life
Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife
Lest the Foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only.
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

3. In the midst of utter woe
All our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go,
Where for grace to bless us?
To Thee, Lord Jesus, only.
Thy precious blood was shed to win
Full atonement for our sin.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

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Scripture and devotions: pages 1–3

Around the Word Devotions

The 24th Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Trinity

THEME OF THE WEEK

The Dormition of Believers

There are all kinds of strange ideas about death and dying these days. Either people are said to escape their bodies to begin their true 'spiritual' existence, or they're mourned as irrevocably lost forever. Only the Christians use the terms "sleep" and "rest" to describe the blessed dead. That's because of our doctrine of the resurrection. Just as Jesus was bodily raised from the dead after His death and burial, so also will our bodies be raised from the places where they rest to live in immortality and perfection. Our own eyes will see Jesus. Our own lips will sing His praises eternally. What great, tangible hope Christ gives to those that sleep!

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE **HOLY CROSS AND SAY:**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 PRAY THE **PSALM OF THE WEEK**

Psalm 95:6–7, 1–4

O come, let us worship and / bow down:*
let us kneel before the Lord our / Maker.
For He is our God; and we are the people of his / pasture,*
and the sheep / of His hand.
Oh come, let us sing / to the Lord!*
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our sal- / vation.
Let us come before His presence with thanks- / giving;*
let us shout joyfully to / Him with psalms.
For the Lord is the / great God,*
and the great King a- / bove all gods.
In His hand are the deep places / of the earth;*
the heights of the hills are His / also.

Verse of the Week, John 5:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

3 READ THE **SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION** *Sunday*

SUN **Matthew 9:18–26** *Death is But a Slumber*

We Christians say a strange thing about our dead. We say what Jesus says: "They are only sleeping." And as the crowds laughed at Jesus, they mock us also. But we expect the resurrection of the dead. We know that our Lord Jesus Himself is risen, never to die again. He is the powerful Word incarnate, God's promise given to faith. His Word is powerful because He is powerful. None who trust in Him will be ashamed. Thus, at the last day, He will indeed waken the dead as easily as waking a child from a little nap. I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. Amen.

Scripture continues on pages 2–3 · Steps 4–6: page 4

3 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION *Monday–Thursday*

MON Psalm 125 *Surrounded by God*

One does not want to be surrounded by their enemies. That is a losing position. But in this Psalm, we find the comforting image of being surrounded by God, not as our enemy, but as our protection. This protection is necessary because the enemy is always at work, afflicting the righteous. This reminds us that while we may see and even experience the attacks of the enemy, our Lord is defending us. He turns aside many of the schemes and plots of the evil one that we are not even aware of. Almighty God, You defend me from my enemies. In my weakness and vulnerability, uphold and defend me, for I am Yours. Amen.

TUE Colossians 1:9–14 *Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding*

Redemption is the forgiveness of sins. It is being delivered from darkness into light. It is to have a share in the Father's inheritance. All who have it are rightly called "saints." And that is you also. Paul prays not that your life be free of trouble, but rather that you be strengthened with God's own might for endurance and patience with joy, and that you may walk well, bearing fruit in every good work. It is the will of God—fully accomplished—that you be redeemed. And filled with this knowledge, we are well prepared for every trial and temptation. Lord, grant me an increase in faith, love, and hope. Amen.

WED Isaiah 51:9–16 *The Fearsome Name of God*

What are you afraid of? We are often fearful of many things. We can be fearful of people who may hurt us. We can be fearful for our health, the future, or the situation in our world. But such fears are misplaced. As we read from Isaiah, there is only One Who is truly to be feared: The Lord. It is the Lord Who can destroy in an instant. And it is the same Lord Who redeems and saves in an instant. We find in this text allusions to the Exodus, the salvation of Israel from slavery in Egypt and a promise to restore them again after exile. In the same way, we find that because we have the love of God in Christ, we have nothing to fear, but rather we find comfort in His promises. O Lord, comfort me in my fears and direct my eyes always to You. Amen.

THU John 5:17–29 *The Authority of the Son*

Jesus expresses His authority over life and death. We know that He even was given authority to take up His own life after He died. He says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." These are words our hearts can trust! Jesus has the full authority to forgive your sins. He has authority to give you life and salvation. It is His desire to do those things for you. It is seen at the cross and it is heard every week from the lips of your pastor. All this He does for you out of His divine love. Lord, You are merciful to me though I do not deserve it. Open my lips to praise You for Your love and mercy shown to me that others may hear and rejoice with me. Amen.

Next: Friday–Saturday and step 4, page 3

3 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION *Friday–Saturday*

FRI 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 *The Body*

The tent of the body is not permanent. Sin has made it so. But the hope of the Christian is not to be free of the tent, left out in the cold. Our hope is not to become disembodied spirits; we expect the resurrection of the body. Whenever your body gives you trouble, lament to God—not in hope that you will die and be free of the body, but rather that you long for the day when you are further clothed in sinless, painless, troubleless life. We will put off this body and be with the Lord soon enough; but at last we will put on immortality. Lord, grant me courage in the body and Your Spirit. Amen.

SAT Psalm 18:1–24 *The Lord's Delightful Anger*

Luther paints the terrifying picture of being in the dungeon of a castle under siege. The walls shake with each bombardment, the lights flicker, the roar of enemy war cries chills the bone. You can imagine what a feeling of impending doom that might wash over you—unless you are in the dungeon of sin, death, and the devil, and those angry enemies bearing down on the castle are your Lord's troops led by Christ Himself. God is angry in this Psalm, fierce and terrifying. But He is arising in response to your distress call. He is rousing Himself to save you from your enemies. I will love You, O Lord, my strength. Amen.

4 PRAY THE COMMANDMENTS, CREED, LORD'S PRAYER

The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maid servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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.

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.

Next: steps 5–6, page 4