

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 44:23, 25-26, 1-3, 7-8**

Awake! Why do You | sleep, O Lord?*
Arise! Do not cast us off for- | ever.
For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;*
arise for our help and re- | deem us.
We have heard with our | ears, O God,*
our fathers have told us the deeds You did in | days of old:
You drove out the nations | with Your hand,*
but you planted our fathers because you | favored them.
You have saved us from our | enemies,*
and have put to shame those who | hated us.
In God we boast | all day long,*
and praise Your name for- | ever.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Timothy 3:16**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, because You know that we dare not put our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
May God Bestow on Us His Grace

TLH 500, LSB 823
Martin Luther



1. May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.

2. Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of every nation,
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.



“The Lord’s Call to Faith in His Grace”

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 February 23-March 1, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Faith in His Grace

The great theme of the week of Sexagesima is that the Lord, by the preaching and teaching of His word, is bringing forth that which He purposes, namely, the righteousness of faith in those who hear and believe it. Also, that the disciple who perseveres in faith and abides in this Word will have no lack of trouble in this life, as St. Paul testifies (2 Corinthians 12:10). But this weakness and wretchedness in the eyes of the world is counted among the mysterious mercies of God, for His strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8: 4-15 "He Who Has Ears Let Him Hear"

Jesus gives us an invitation and a warning in one sentence; "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Many will hear the Word of God, receive it with joy and believe it for a while, but not all will hold it fast in their hearts. Life in this world is thorny and the enemies of God's Word are manifold. Our sinful nature, the world and the devil all wish to choke and steal the Word from our ears and hearts. Thus, Jesus invites and encourages us to be frequent hearers of His Word so that by His grace His Word would be deeply rooted in our hearts, grow stronger and stronger, bearing the fruits of faith. *Lord, to whom shall we go, You have the Words of eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24 "Righteousness Received"

When we read the word "righteousness" in the Bible our first thought should be of the righteousness of Christ, His perfect obedience to the law, His perfect suffering of the troubles of this life. His righteousness is given to us by faith in the promise of the forgiveness of all our sins. We read of this gift of righteousness in Psalm 24:5, "righteousness from the God of his salvation." We must be righteous to ascend the Lord's holy hill, to stand before Him. If it were up to us to be righteous by our works and deeds and efforts, we could never make it. But we are declared righteous by Christ. We receive righteousness from Him as a free and astonishing gift. *Lord, give me the righteousness of Christ that I might stand before You in eternal life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 "Strength in Weakness"

We are totally dependent on God for all things, from the breath we take to the free gift of salvation which comes through Jesus Christ. But our flesh usually believes itself self-sufficient and even worthy of the blessings of our Lord. This is why Paul rejoices in his suffering. He boasts that when he is weak, when he suffers from the maladies of the flesh and even from persecution, he cannot boast of himself in any way. It is then that all he has is Christ. And that is enough. The God who loves you and has redeemed you will sometimes use the trials you face to tear down your idols and bring you closer to Him. When this happens, trust Him. Rest in Him alone. He will not fail you. *Lord, help me in my trials to cling to You alone. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55:10-13 "There is No True Growth Apart from the Word"

Without rain the crops wither and die. The seed that is sowed in the ground cannot bring forth fruit of itself. It needs the rain to water it so that it produces seed for the sower and bread for the eater. So it is with the Word of God. It must shower down upon us as we hear it and believe it so that we can accomplish anything pertaining to God. The Word of the Law crushes our self-righteousness and prepares us for the preaching of His Word of Gospel, which promises the forgiveness of sins, adoption as sons, and all the blessings of God to be received by faith. Without this Word of God nothing good happens in us. Thanks be to God that He rains down on us His Word and promises! *Lord, open my ears to hear Your life-giving Word. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4: 26-32 "The Word Does It All"

Here we are beautifully and gracefully robbed of our inclination to do something to cause God's kingdom to advance. God rules His kingdom with His Word alone, plants it, and harvests it, all by His gracious giving and completely apart from our finest know-how; our vast knowledge is nothing. What an incredible relief! God will handle the creation of faith, the sustaining and nurturing of faith, and the completion of faith all in Christ Jesus. We preach, teach, listen to Jesus, and rest assured God is accomplishing what He desires doing. He can do no wrong, even when it seems small. What rest, what burden lifted, what true and only cause for joy! *O Lord God, sow Your Word and accomplish Your kingdom. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5 "Continue in the Things You Have Learned...All Scripture is God-Breathed"

These words of Paul to Timothy stand as a mighty bulwark against all forms of enthusiasm, the idea that we know of ourselves what is good, what God wants of us, or that we can create new doctrines apart from the expressed Word of God. Paul commands that Timothy not depart from the things which he has learned, to cling to the Word of Scripture, and to preach that Word as God's own breathed-out Word for teaching, reproof and training in righteousness. There is nothing more certain on earth than God's own Word. Let us, like St. Timothy, cling to the trustworthy Word as taught, and not depart into self-serving myths to serve our itching ears. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 "Good and Upright is the Lord"

Bringing sinners to repentance is what God does, it is who He is. For Christ's sake we are justified-declared righteous-but God doesn't stop there. He listens to our prayers, instructs us in His statutes, guards and protects us from all enemies. He keeps turning us back to Himself and this lifts up our souls. He desires nothing more than to be the God Who creates, redeems, and sanctifies because He is steadfast love. If He kept a record of sins, if He remembered sin, none could stand. So, He doesn't. Your sins are not counted against you, but against His Son. He remembers you and sends you Jesus so that by faith in His word of pardon heaven is opened to you. *O Lord God, consider my affliction and my trouble and forgive all my sins. Amen.*

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