



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 12-18, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: Humble Love of Brothers in Faith

The works of love that flow from true Christian faith can best be seen among the brothers who believe, teach, and confess Jesus' saving name. As we've been bound together in the church by the same confession and faith, so also do our works for the brothers reflect and emulate Christ's saving grace received in the divine service. We pray for one another. We forgive each other's sins. In times of joy, we rejoice with the members of our church. We weep with them in times of sorrow. If any need of body or soul afflicts the brothers, we, as members of the same body, extend hands of love that are received by our brothers as the hands of Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:1-11 A Sabbath Healing

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" The Lord reminds us that if we live by the law we will die by the law. The law indeed is holy and righteous and good. It indeed points out our sin and points us to godly living. But it is nonetheless incapable of saving us. Because of our inability to keep it in its perfection, we cannot thereby attain its promises. Jesus, however, has kept the law for us. And through Him we are healed, every day, but especially on the Sabbath, when we come to the Lord's House and rest in Him and His forgiveness through His Word and His Gifts. *Blessed Lord, bless me each and every day with Your healing through Your Word and Gifts. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:129-136 (PE) Illuminated Darkness

God's Word is life because Jesus is life. Life for every part of you! Your mind, your eyes, your mouth, your feet, they're all mentioned in this portion of Psalm 119. His Word gives light to darkened minds to give lives of understanding. Mouths are opened to sing His praise and to long for His Word. Feet are steadied to walk safely through the uncertainty and shakiness of this world. Eyes are even given new life, even moved to tears because people do not keep God's Law. *"O God, create in me a clean heart, and teach me the joy of living the new life of righteousness." Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6 Walking the Way

Every good gift comes from above. God richly and daily provides for all our needs in both body and soul. Therefore, let us come together in the one faith, gathered into the one Body of Christ, and work together as God's instruments for the building up of the whole Body. Let us live together in all humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, eagerly maintaining the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. This is the work of the Spirit in us, in which God calls us to walk by the light of His grace.

O Lord, let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure, and flee a world which would deceive us, and to sin our spirits lure. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 The Heavenly Logic of Praise

Hannah is a Christian. She sings, in concert with the Holy Spirit, a hymn that exults in God's righteous works which justify sinners in His sight. Follow the heavenly logic of her song. She confesses that salvation comes from God, calling it "Your salvation." God is holy. Man is sinful. The mighty man who trusts in himself is broken by God's judgment. But "the feeble bind on strength." The song lists opposites like this. To those who think they live, God kills. To those who despair and consider themselves dead, God makes alive. These are God's works of Law and Gospel. These are the words that justify the sinner in His sight. The conclusion asserts that these merciful judgments are for Christ's sake. *Grant me faith to believe this, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:18-28 The Day of Rest

The Sabbath is a day of rest. Rest for our bodies from toil and labor, and rest for our souls, which abide in the Lord, Who vivifies us by the hearing of His Word and in giving to us His Body and Blood. The Sabbath is less a legality to be weighed in the court of law and more an invitation to repose in the open arms of our Lord. Thanks be to our God Who eagerly invites us to rest in His extended arms, to spend time with Him, learn from Him, and be refreshed by Him. *Gracious Father, as we are pilgrims on this earth, help us to find rest in our heavenly home, both as we receive Your heavenly gifts on the Lord's Day and also at our final hour. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Jude 20-25 Not Left Up to Us

Luther wrote a marvelous prayer which many pastors pray, known as the "sacristy prayer". One of the notes he makes is that "if everything were left up to me I would have ruined it long ago." And this is true for not just pastors called to shepherd the Lord's Church, but also all Christians. If it were left up to us we would be constantly stumbling. We would present ourselves before God with all the blame of our sin. But the Lord keeps us from stumbling into unbelief and He, by His blood, presents us to the Father as being blameless. In Him we are declared righteous, even as He is righteous. *Blessed Lord, keep me from stumbling into unbelief through the forgiveness of sins in Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 56 Unafraid of Man

"In God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?" We are always tempted to fear the retribution of man. There is temptation to fear our reputation, our property, our families, or our lives being taken from us. We fear the anger of our neighbor or coworker or family member. But David reminds us that our trust, being placed in God, means that we not only do not fear, but that man can, in fact, do nothing to us. The Lord has delivered our soul from death and we will walk before God in the light of life. We will, on the last day, be raised eternally with every good and perfect gift, with death defeated, and with the unending presence of God. *Lord, keep me from the fear of man, and help me ever to put my trust, fear, and love, only in You. Amen.*

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5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:137, 124, 1-2, 5-6

Righteous are / You, O Lord,*
and upright are Your / judgments.
Deal with Your servant according to Your / mercy,*
and teach me Your / statutes.
Blessed are the undefiled / in the way,*
who walk in the law / of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep His testi- / monies,*
who seek Him with the / whole heart!
Oh, that my ways were / directed*
to keep Your / statutes!
Then I would not / be ashamed,*
when I look into all Your com- / mandments.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Galatians 6:10

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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

In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

TLH 319

Johannes Schneising



1. In Thee alone, O Christ, my Lord,
My hope on earth remaineth;
I know Thou wilt Thine aid afford,
Naught else my soul sustaineth.
No strength of man, no earthly stay
Can help me in the evil day;
Thou, only Thou, canst aid supply.
To Thee I cry;
On Thee I bid my heart rely.

3. O Lord, in mercy stay my heart
On faith's most sure foundation
And to my inmost soul impart
Thy perfect consolation.
Fill all my life with love to Thee,
Toward all men grant me charity;
And at the last, when comes my end,
Thy succor send.
From Satan's wiles my soul defend.