



“Singlehearted Love of God in Christ”

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 19-25, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: Singlehearted Love of God in Christ

The Lord is our helper. He takes us miserable sinners and gives us all we need for this life and the life to come. He redeems and rescues us with might and mercy, and binds us to Christ our vine. David's Son and Lord is our God and King, and He gives us an overflowing and never-ending joy in His righteous Word. The texts for this week's meditations are full of the Lord's gentleness for sinners, His strength to save, and the always surprising miracle of His grace, the forgiveness of our sins.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-46 Love On the Cross

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... and... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If someone were to ask you for an example of what this might look like, you could do no better than to point them to the cross. Forsaken by God, our Lord calls out in perfect love, "My God, My God." Forsaken by man, our Lord calls out in perfect love, "Father, forgive them." Though He is forsaken by both God and neighbor, Jesus loves both God and neighbor perfectly. By this love we are saved. But we are also shown the full dignity and glory of what it means to be truly human, what it means to truly love. *Gracious Father, because You love us, so teach us to love, that as You are so may we be. Like Father, like Son. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:137-144 Your Testimonies Are My Delight

Christ gives us His perfect obedience through Baptism. The new man created in the image of God now wages war against the flesh. The new man loves God's law; the sinful flesh despises it. The new man made in the image of Christ declares, "My zeal consumes me," even as the sinful flesh forgets God's law. Only because of Jesus' gifts can this Psalm apply to humanity. In our sinful condition sinful man forgets God's precepts and dwells upon trouble and anguish. But because Christ conquered sin by His death, the new man made in His image even declares that despite trouble and anguish, the commandments of God are still his delight. *Thank You, heavenly Father, for creating us anew in Christ to delight in Your law. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Paul's Thankful Example

Paul almost always begins with thanksgiving. He knows that the Corinthians Christians are sinners unworthy of the Lord's kindness. He knows that he is a sinner unworthy of the Lord's kindness. He knows the world is sinful and undeserving of the Lord's care. But Paul sees the Lord's fantastic and overwhelming love for the world, himself, and the saints in Corinth, and he gives thanks. He thanks God for their repentance, their faith, their love, their gifts, and their spiritual riches which the Lord has given them as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul sees the entire world through the lens of God's mercy, and so he gives thanks in every circumstance. *O Lord, we thank You for the thankful example of Paul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we would join Him in thanksgiving. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21 The Unmerited Love of God

The Lord of heaven and earth, God of gods, and Lord of lords (v. 17) "set His heart in love" on Israel (v.15). Yes, the Lord God chose Israel, a sinful people, an ungrateful and rebellious nation, to be His chosen people. No merit or worthiness in Israel produced such singlehearted love of God. Yet the LORD who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex. 34:6), chose Israel in love to be His people. It is this singlehearted love of God in Christ that calls sinners out of the darkness of death and sin into the marvelous light of Christ to be for Him a holy people (1 Pet. 2:9). *O Lord, as Your chosen in Christ, help me to walk in all Your ways, love and serve You above all things. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17 The Fruit of the Vine through the Branches

Where do the branches end and the Vine begin? Or vice versa? That's the idea exactly! What goes on in the Divine Service comes from our Lord, the Vine. This is the life that He gives to the world in the Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments. The power contained in preaching and teaching and absolution at church is how Jesus (the Vine) works in the Church (the Branches). Therefore, it is difficult to discern where the Vine ends and the Branches begin. He has included His Church in Himself, for she is His very own body. When we go to church and hear the Gospel and receive the Lord's own body and blood, or when we hear the pastor forgive us, we receive through the branches, the fruit of Christ, the life of the Vine. *Lord Jesus, show us Yourself at work through real means of grace. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8 For This Purpose

Sin is what separates us from the life of God and joins us to death and the devil. Jesus comes to undo this, to undo our death, to undo our bondage and set us free. Look at how John says it, "For this reason the Son of God was manifest, that He might destroy the works of the devil." The devil that gives you so much trouble, he is destroyed by Jesus. The sin that gives you so much trouble, it is forgiven by Jesus. The death that is staring you down, it is destroyed by Jesus. You are His, and life is yours. *Lord Jesus, keep us in Your forgiveness and life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 Many Enemies, One Really Good Friend

Christians have enemies. If we don't know this the Psalms will never make sense to us. "Strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life" (Psalm 54:3). If we can't identify our enemies, then we at least remember that the world, the flesh, and the devil are tracking us down to wreck our trust in Christ. Yes, we have enemies, but we also have a friend, a helper greater than our troubles. "Behold, God is my helper." We announce it to the world. "The Lord is the upholder of my life." He delivers us from trouble, and we give thanks to Him. *O God, save me by Your name and vindicate me by Your Might. Amen.*

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5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Ecclesiasticus 36:16-17a; Psalm 122:1, 6, 8-9

Give peace, O Lord, to those who / wait for You.*
and let Your prophets be proven / faithful.
Hear the prayer of Your / servants,*
according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your / people.
I was glad when they / said to me,*
“Let us go into the house / of the Lord.”
Pray for the peace of Je- / rusalem.*
“May they prosper who / love you.
For the sake of my brethren and com- / panions,*
I will now say, “Peace be with- / in you.”
Because of the house of the / Lord our God*
I will / seek your good.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 15:15

[Jesus says,] “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, forasmuch as without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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, Thee I Love With All My Heart

TLH 429, LSB 708

Martin Shalling



1. Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share,
Yea, heaven itself were void and bare
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee no one could shake.
Thou art the Portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ,
My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

3. Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abram's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace,
Lord Jesus Christ,
My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.