



“Believing Love of All Others”

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 September 14-20, 2025

## THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

The theme of this week's devotions is... "Believing Love of All Others". The life of a Christian is a life of faithful service and love towards the neighbor. Just as the Catechism leads us to ask who our neighbors are, it also shows us how to love. We learn in the 2nd Article of the Creed that God's love comes to us in Jesus Christ and then we share this love and service with others. We love by sharing God's Word and being the helpful hand that they need. Our love may fail but we know that God's love for us never fails and we rest secure in His loving arms because we will be cared for eternally.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:23-37 "The Law Can't Fulfill Itself"

To the 'self-justifier' every aspect of life is defined by conformity to God's strict commands. Everything is either blessing for doing the right thing or curse for sinning. To prove the Law's impotence, Jesus gives the Lawyer a legal answer. Neither the priest nor the Levite can touch the wounded man for fear of defiling themselves, or perhaps from calloused indifference. Either way, the Law fails to provide saving mercy to the wounded man. The Samaritan is beyond the rigid demands of threat and punishment. He shows mercy, just as God in Christ shows mercy by imputing sin to his Son and righteousness to you. From faith in this Gospel, you are to learn true love for the neighbor. *Grant me believing love for my neighbor, O Lord. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM) "Jesus Again"

I love reading this section of Psalm 119. The psalmist boasts of some pretty amazing things: He loves the Lord's Law and meditates on it day and night. He has a thorough understanding of God's heart and mind. He holds back every evil, just so that he can keep God's Word and precepts. How wonderful a Psalm this is! Because Christ has kept the law for me and redeemed me from my sin, I now love the Lord's law. How can it hurt me? It can only be my delight. Hypocrites boast in the law, but without the righteousness that comes by faith and the Holy Spirit's grace. They continue to stand under its curse. God be praised that Jesus' saving work allows us to speak these words with boldness and confidence. Jesus has come to do what we were called to do, but never could accomplish. What joy! What everlasting joy! *Father in heaven, count me righteous for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22 "The All and the One Seed"

In our text Paul is deep into the doctrine of justification, how it is that the Lord forgives all our sins. The Law is especially designed by God to show our need for a Savior. "The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe" (Galatians 3:22). That promise came first, before the Law. Paul gives us a hint on where to find the Gospel in the Old Testament: look for the promise of the Seed. The Seed will crush the devil's head (Genesis 3:15). The Seed will bless the nations (Genesis 22:18). The Seed will have an everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12-13). The Seed is Christ, the Savior of Sinners. *Grant to us, O Lord, to rest in Your promise of life and salvation. Amen.*

**WED****SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5 "Law Promising Life?"**

This text seems to contradict St. Paul's sermon that the Law cannot give life. Does it? I don't think so. The Law can indeed give life to the one who keeps it. Can you? The answer is of course, 'No.' You have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Christ fulfills the Law in our stead. He gives us His own righteousness of having kept the law when we believe in Him. Does that mean that we should jettison the keeping of the Law from our lives? Absolutely not. We weren't redeemed to become idolaters. From faith comes a happy obedience to God's statutes and rules. Just remember that we don't trust in our obedience to save us. We gladly leave that work to Christ. *Give me grace and strength to love and keep Your Law, O Lord. Amen.*

**THU****SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28 "Believing Love Suffers Like Jesus Suffered"**

You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with." These words shatter any "best life now" thoughts. James and John were a lot like us. They have delusions of grandeur. They wanted to share in His power and glory. Jesus offers them the cup of wrath and a baptism of suffering and blood. He offers them positions as servants. We might want glory, but Jesus gives us an office of service. We serve others because He first served us. He ransomed us with His own blood, and He continues to forgive and feed His people through the Word and Sacraments. If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him. *Dear Jesus, serve us so that in faith and love we might serve You and others. Amen.*

**FRI****SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17 "The Law's Audience"**

The Law is for the "lawless and disobedient." They need their flesh to be kept from hurting others, what Lutherans call the Law's 1st use, and they need to come to the knowledge of their guilt before God, which is the 2nd, theological use of the Law. Paul knows both uses well. He remembers when Jesus stopped his march to Damascus by blinding him physically, curbing his flesh. But the Lord also opened the eyes of his heart to see that his violence was attacking the Lord himself. This revelation came, not to punish Paul, but to save him. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost," Paul testifies. God be praised! *Open my eyes to know my great need for Your mercy, O God, that I may find it in Your Son. Amen.*

**SAT****SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84 "Jealous of the Sparrows"**

The Sons of Korah sing of their jealousy of the sparrows and swallows. You can imagine it. These ancient priests see the birds making their nests under the eaves of the temple in Jerusalem. They see the birds flying out and then returning home to the shadows of the temple, and they think, "How wonderful to have the Lord's house as your house." (See Psalm 84:3-4) "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness" (84:10). *O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You! Amen.*

## 5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23

Have respect to Your cove- / nant, O Lord;\*  
oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!  
Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;\*  
do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.  
O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?\*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?  
Remember Your congre- / gation,\*  
which You have pur- / chased of old,  
The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—\*  
this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.  
Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.\*  
Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

## 6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 13:10

"Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

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

## 8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; 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

**O God, Thou Faithful God**

TLH 395, LSB 696

Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,  
Thou Fountain ever flowing,  
Who good and perfect gifts  
In mercy art bestowing,  
Give me a healthy frame,  
And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame,  
A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whatever Thou shalt command,  
My calling here fulfilling;  
To do it when I ought,  
With all my might, and bless  
The work I thus have wrought,  
For Thou must give success.