

“Singlehearted Love of God in Christ”



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 **1 John 4:9**
“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

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.

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 3-9, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: Singlehearted Love of God in Christ

Does God's love for you change over time? Does His love for you waver or fade? This week we will explore the "Singlehearted Love of God in Christ" and how this love works to shape our lives on earth as well as our eternal destiny. In God there is no variation or shadow due to change and that includes His love. There is, however, a diversity and multiplicity of gifts that flow from His love. The beginning and ending of all these gifts is His love for us in Christ Jesus. God is love! May we never cease to marvel.

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 Love Teaches Wisdom

Rules, testimonies, precepts, commandments, law. These are like swear-words to the foolish soul. The fool seeks to be free from such "legalism" even if it comes from the mouth of God. But King David delights in these very things and immerses himself in them. For in them he hears the Wisdom of God. When the Wisdom of God became flesh, He promised that if we abide in His word we shall know the truth and the truth will set us free. Thus "the love of God in Christ" is not merely a love that removes sin, but also a love that removes foolishness. *In Your love, O Lord, forgive our sins and teach us true wisdom. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Love Is The Greatest Gift

What are you looking forward to? Perhaps retirement or a wedding, graduation or a birthday, or maybe just next weekend. Saint Paul sets our hearts on the ultimate thing for which we wait: "the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." Strange and tantalizing language! Not merely the return of Jesus, but the revealing of Jesus. We shall finally see Him as He is. While we wait, God pours out gifts: grace, enrichment in speech and knowledge, Spiritual gifts; He sustains us in faith, in guiltlessness, and in the fellowship of His Son. Gift upon gift. Until that Day when the greatest of all gifts will be given: Love Incarnate will be revealed! *Lord Jesus Christ, we long for You to be revealed and for Your perfect love to make all things new. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 10:12-21 Love Has Chosen You

"The Lord set His heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them ..." There is indeed no worthiness in ancient Israel or in us that God should choose us to be His own. But, in His infinite love, God has chosen you in Christ, baptized you in Christ, and made you one with Christ. As it is for Christ, so it shall be for you. Indeed, "God in His purpose has ordained before the time of the world by what crosses and sufferings He would conform every one of His elect to the image of His Son" (FC:SD:XI:49). Not even your sufferings are by accident. In love, God has laid even these upon you for your eternal blessing and good. *Lord God, forgive us for ever doubting Your love. You alone are love and You alone are good. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-17 Love Beyond Understanding

Before the worlds were framed, the everlasting Father loved His Son and the everlasting Son loved His Father. This love was, is, and ever shall be. God is love. If Jesus had not said it, no soul would dare even dream of it, but said it He has: "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you." Let that sink all the way in. It doesn't matter how big your problems are, how deep your anguish, how broken your heart. Here is a love that is greater than all things, a love that is greater than all sins, a love that is greater than all sorrows, a love that is greater even than death. It is a love that has gone to the cross for you and a love that will, in due time, make you and all things new. *Loving Jesus, I believe, help Thou my unbelief. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-8 Love Also Says No

Imagine a father who would let his child play in the middle of a busy freeway. What would we say about such a father? What would we say about his love for his child? "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God." Our heavenly Father loves us too much to let us play in the busy freeway of sin. We must not make a practice of sinning; we must not become impenitent. To do so would be to rebel against our loving Father and to disobey His loving word. Instead, we repent. We avoid sin. We seek and receive forgiveness when we fall. For God so loves us that He sent His Son to destroy sin and to free us from its guilt and its power. *Loving Father, for sake me not, but forgive me and correct me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 54 Love Protects You

Will the Christian have enemies? Indeed. Our Lord says that the world will hate us. We do not wrestle with flesh and blood and, yet, it is precisely flesh and blood that the principalities and powers of darkness wield against us. Will God protect us from those who would cancel us, fire us, sue us, imprison us, or even put us to death? We need only look to Jesus to know that God can and will deliver us from all evil. What can the world do to me? Temporary affliction. That is all. Soon, God will bring each one of us into paradise. Soon, God will raise us from the grave. Soon, all evil will be put away forever and we shall triumph with Christ. God is love and God is your protector. *Father, prepare our hearts to entrust ourselves to Your love. Amen.*

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