

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Ps. 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, / (O Lord,)*
and shall not be / put to shame.
I will bless the LORD at / all times;*
his praise shall continually be / in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast / in the LORD;*
let the humble hear / and be glad.
Come, O children, lis- / -ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear / of the LORD.
The LORD redeems the life of his / servants;*
None of those who take refuge in him will / be condemned.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 3:21-22

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we implore You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace; through the same 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TLH 262, LSB 656

Martin Luther



1. A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On Earth is not his equal.
3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.

- This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
4. The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.



Around the Word Devotions + October 26-November 1, 2025

"The Reformation of the Church of 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 26-November 1, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Reformation of the Church of Christ

"The Reformation" is often considered a period in history that started in 1517 after Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg. But this is more than a day to remember the works and ideas of a mere man. Think about it. Who can reform the church? Men like Luther? God forbid. You know that the Holy Christian Church is a creation of Christ and His Word, not the product of men and their ideas. Thus, the true "Reformation" is Christ's work to set aside human perversions of His saving Gospel. Our joy this week is that Christ used men like Luther to reform His bride from error through the faithful preaching of His Word.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:12-15 "A Kingdom of Peace, and a Kingdom of Violence"

Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1). That is a tremendous comfort. God is not at war with us; He is not even mad at us. All His wrath has been spent on Jesus, and we are the friends of God. This peace and friendship set us at war with the world, the devil, and even our own sinful flesh. The church of God is a church militant. The kingdom of God suffers violence. While we are at war with sin and death, we are at rest with God, at peace. We rejoice in this peace, and from the confidence that it gives we stand against all the assaults of the devil. *Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring Your enemies into Your peace, and grant them to stand with us as well. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 "Brought Back from Captivity"

In 586 BC the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar walloped Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and carried almost all of the people away to Babylon. In 531 BC the Persian King Cyrus issued the decree of return, permitting the exiles to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. Psalm 126 comes for the joy of that journey home; the joy of God's anger relented, and the city given back to them. The church has taken up this Psalm at the time of the Reformation, rejoicing that the Lord has brought us back to the joy and confidence of His pure Gospel, taught from God's Word. *O Lord, our mouths are filled with laughter and our tongue with singing. You have done great things for us. Keep us in the joy and freedom of the forgiveness of all our sins. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 14:6-7 "What Shall We Do?"

Contrary to popular sentiment, Revelation is one of the most comforting books in the Bible. The timeless message? Christ reigns, Christ wins, and we will reign and win with Him. In Revelation 14:6,7 we see an angel proclaiming an eternal gospel to all people. Reconciled to God in Christ, all the nations of the earth are told to "fear God and give Him glory ... and worship Him Who made [all things]." Let us not live our days in fear of current events. Let us live our days worshipping the God Who has saved us by grace, through faith, and apart from works. *Most merciful God, thank You for restoring us to You in Christ our Savior! Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 29:12-19 "Hezekiah's Reformation"

King Ahaz was an evil king who devoted himself not to the God of the Bible, but to the idols and demons of this world. His son Hezekiah was different. From a young age he was devoted to the Lord his God by faith. And so when he came to the throne, he arranged to have the temple cleansed, the rubbish thrown out of it, and the worship of the Lord restored. Hezekiah's reformation was, like any Godly reformation, one of repentance for sins and restoration of right doctrine from the Bible. This week, as we celebrate God's work in calling His Church to repentance and faith 500 years ago, we remember that God has been doing this for a very long time, and will only continue to do so by His Word. *Lord, bring a reformation to us, that we too may live. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-17 "Zeal for Your House"

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He must be feared above all things and worshipped in spirit and in truth. He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. His judgement is good. His eternal gospel delivers us from sin, death, and the devil. He saves us from the constant harassment of our enemies and brings us to the unending joy of heaven. In the midst the tribulation in this world, we can become discouraged, but lift up your eyes and behold Christ, Who has overcome the world. Lift up your hearts and receive the cup of salvation, the very body and blood of our Lord, by which he strengthens us body and soul to life everlasting. *Lord God, strengthen us by Your holy Word and Sacrament and comfort us with Your presence. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:16-21 "Works of Faith"

Works and faith are always distinguished in the Bible. Works are how you "keep" a command. Faith is how you "keep" a promise. If you give the command, "Stand up," I keep that word by standing up. If you give me a promise, "I will visit you tomorrow," you keep that word by believing it. The Law gives us commands and works to do. The Gospel, on the other hand, is a promise, the promise of the forgiveness of sins won for us by the death of Jesus on the cross. We have the righteousness of the Gospel not by works, but by faith as we believe the promise that the Lord gives. *Lord Jesus, strengthen our faith and confidence in Your Gospel promise. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138, 87 "The Lord's Treasures"

His mercy, His truth, His Name, and His Word, these are the Lord's treasures, the things that He values most. These are the things He has given to us. Oh if we could only see it! We treasure wealth, comfort, ease, whatever, the things that are passing away with the world. The true treasures, the true riches are those things which endure. "You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name." How richly the Lord has given to us the things that matter, the things of value, the things that endure past death to the resurrection and life eternal. *Lord, keep us in Your name and Your Word, so that we would rejoice in the eternal things that You treasure. Amen.*

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