

“He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:6, 2, 1-2, 7-8, 11**
 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving- | kindnesses,*
 for they are | from of old.
 Let not my enemies triumph | over me.*
 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their | troubles!
 To You, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, I trust in You; let me not | be ashamed:
 do not remember the sins | of my youth;*
 according to Your mercy remember me for Your | goodness' sake.
 Good and upright | is the Lord;*
 therefore He teaches sinners | in the way.
 For Your name's | sake, O Lord,*
 pardon my iniquity, for | it is great.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **James 1:2**
 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 O God, our heavenly Father, seeing that of ourselves we have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK **When In The Hour of Utmost Need** TLH 522, LSB 615
 Paul Eber



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| <p>1. When in the hour of utmost need We know not where to look for aid; When days and nights of anxious thought Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,</p> <p>4. For Thou hast promised graciously To hear all those who cry to Thee Through Him whose name alone is great, Our Savior and our Advocate.</p> | <p>5. And thus we come, O God, today And all our woes before Thee lay; For sorely tried, cast down, we stand, Perplexed by fears on every hand.</p> <p>6. Ah! hide not for our sins Thy face, Absolve us through Thy boundless grace, Be with us in our anguish still, Free us at last from every ill.</p> |
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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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Weakness of His Disciples

The devil afflicts even those whose faith is great. Tormented by temptation, afflicted with accusations against conscience, and seeing their own children oppressed by demons, the saints are driven to pray, "Have mercy on me Lord, Son of David." Our prayers ascend, but help seems slow in coming. In our impatience the devil tempts us to abandon our prayers. David reminds us, "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). Our prayers are precious to the Lord. He answers not because we deserve it, but because of His own mercy purchased and won by the blood of Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 15:21-28 Persistence of Prayer

Prayer is persistent and bold and clings to God's Word and Promises. We see this in the lady who approaches Jesus. She asks for her daughter to be healed. Jesus ignores her. She persists, and the disciples beg her to be dismissed. Jesus says He wasn't sent to her. She begs all the more. He calls her a dog, and she consents. If you will have me be a dog, she says, then a dog I will be, for even dogs receive gifts from their master, even if only crumbs. She trusts that she has, not an insult, but a promise in those words from Jesus. And Jesus praises her for this faith and persistence, granting her prayer, and healing her daughter. *Lord, help me to be persistent and bold in my prayers, trusting Your promises to hear and answer them. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130 Psalm of Hope

Psalm 130 is a psalm of hope. It begins with the reader in the depth pleading for their cries to be heard by God. The Psalmist then tells us why we want God to hear us. With Him there is forgiveness which leaves the recipient speechless. As a result, we find ourselves waiting for Him like watchmen in the morning because God alone is our help. This psalm then ends with God's unfailing love. This psalm reminds us that without the Law there can be no Gospel. Without being in the depths we would have no deliverer and salvation. *Lord, help us to view Your unfailing love as the extraordinary gift that it is. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 The Will of God

God doesn't want us to think, speak, and act like slaves to the flesh and demons. Sexual immorality, giving our bodies over to passions and desires outside of the godly bonds of marriage, is celebrated by our world. Whereas the Scriptures teach self-control, the world demands immediate indulgence as a moral necessity. The dangers and consequences aren't immediately apparent. Therefore, we must teach the sixth commandment and speak about God's definition of marriage. We must take responsibility over what we show our children. We must uphold chastity in our own lives so that others may see and be encouraged by our joy in the untarnished enjoyment of God's gifts in married and single life. *Make me holy by Your Spirit, Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 45:20-25 One God, One Savior

When the Lord rebukes us, it's always for a particular purpose: to direct us back to Himself, to His Words and Promises, and to His Redemption. When we walk in the ways of the world, we inevitably follow after other gods, but the Lord will have none of that. He comes to us in the Scriptures and points to Himself and His work and reminds us that there is no other God besides Him. And more than that, He has come to us, not in terrors and wrath, but in righteousness and mercy. He has come not as a tyrant, but as a Savior. He has come not to destroy us, but to destroy our sin on the cross of His Son. That's what He directs us back toward and what we are to rejoice and take comfort in. *Lord, keep my heart and mind always on You, the one true God. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Mark 9:17-29 All Things Are Possible for One Who Believes

A child is suffering demon possession and Jesus' disciples are unable to help. Jesus, entering the scene, laments their lack of faith and summons the stricken child. Jesus next addresses the doubting father: "All things are possible for one who believes." In hearing the Word, faith is created, and the father responds, "I believe, help my unbelief." The child is delivered from the demon and, by the hand of Jesus, he is lifted up to new life. Jesus entered our world of despair and unbelief that we might be rescued from our hopeless state. In baptism, He reached out to you and rescued you from the clutches of the evil foe, giving you new life. *Lord, we thank You for entering our world of despair to deliver compassion, salvation, and faith through Your Son. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 5:13-20 Praying Over the Sick

It's amazing how much of my pastoral vocation comes down to these few verses. I hear the suffering of the saints. I pray for them. I hear of someone's joy. Together we thank the Lord. I visit the sick, pray with them, and give them anointing blessings full of the comfort of the Holy Spirit. The Lord raises up the afflicted, even when their bodies are dying. Their souls find life and comfort in Jesus. More than anything, pastors come bearing the absolution, the forgiveness of sins. Maybe people want some deep insight explaining why they're going through their suffering. But what they really need is to hear their sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. *O Lord, grant me healing of the soul with Your forgiveness so that I may enjoy the resurrection unto life. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 Guard My Soul and Deliver Me

Our only hope of deliverance is from the one true God. The psalmist, in his weakness, calls out to the One Who can grant strength. "To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In You I trust; let me not be put to shame. Lead me in Your truth and teach me. Pardon my guilt for it is great. Turn to me, be gracious to me, forgive all my sins. I take refuge in you." This psalm is a beautiful prayer, raised up to our Redeemer; for indeed this prayer is answered in Christ. He took all of our weakness, insecurity, guilt, and shame upon Himself, on the cross, that we might be redeemed, embraced anew by the Father. *Father, be gracious to us in our weakness, forgive us our sins, for the sake of Your Son, and strengthen our resolve against all evil. Amen.*

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