5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Isaiah 66:10-11; Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad with her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may feed and be | satisfied*
with the consolation of her | bosom.
I was glad when they | said to me,*
"Let us go into the house | of the Lord."
Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem:*
"May they prosper who | love you."
For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will | now say,*
"Peace be with- | in you."

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 6:27**

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set his seal."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

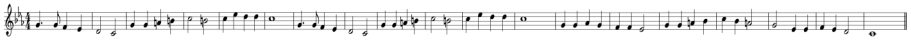
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we implore You that we, who do worthily deserve to be punished for our evil deeds, may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

TLH 347, LSB 384
Johann Franck



1. Jesus, priceless Treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest Friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,
Naught I ask beside Thee.

2. In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Around the Word Devotions + March 15-21, 2026

"He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners"

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 March 15-21, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

This Sunday we hear about food in the middle of a fasting season. No wonder the title of the Sunday is "Joy." But if that is all, it falls into the very trap the crowd of 5,000 faced: They hoped at best they might never be hungry again in this life. Fasting is not for the sake of making Sunday brunch taste better. It is that we might displace our self-centered schedule with a focus on the Bread from Heaven, Jesus Christ. The Word of God feeds us. It gives us the bread by which we live forever. It gives joy that nothing can take away. Come and turn your eyes away from this world and your own belly. Come and turn your eyes toward the Savior of the world and eternal life, that amid the manifold chances and changes of this world, your heart may be fixed where true joys are to be found.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-15 Daily Bread Given by the Bread of Life

"Give us this day our daily bread." We pray this petition daily, but many of us have never felt hunger pangs. Many of us have never gone without food. It is easy to forget that everything we need is given by Jesus. In the reading, Jesus provided food for the crowds in a miraculous manner. Today, Jesus provides food for us through means. Jesus provides for our physical life. But Jesus offers the crowds and us something greater. He offers eternal life. He offers Himself, the Bread of Life. Anyone who comes to Jesus will never hunger, and whoever believes in Him shall never thirst. May God give us Jesus, the Bread from heaven always. *Dear Jesus, provide us with daily bread as You feed us with Yourself, the Bread of Life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46 Refuge and Strength

Apocalyptic times make men act strangely. They stockpile food. They gather guns and ammunition. They make plans on how to escape their shadowy oppressors and survive. Is it possible that in the frantic race to prepare and survive that fear, love, and trust in God are lost? You bet. Our flesh wants to find saviors that we can heft in our hands. The more dangerous to our enemies, the better. But God laughs at our folly. The Lord brings desolations on the earth. He shatters the tools of war in which men trust for salvation. Every fortress and refuge collapses before Him. He alone is our Mighty Fortress, our very present help in trouble. Trust in God. Pray for daily bread. Love your neighbor. Fulfill your callings. *Save me, O Lord my Fortress. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21-31 Children of Freedom

This text is a bit tricky, an extended analogy comparing two moms, two sons, two cities, two mountains, and two ways of standing before God. Hagar was Sarah's maidservant, and her son Ishmael was born through human effort to control the future. This is the doctrine of the Law, which is also represented by Mt. Sinai and the Pharisees in Jerusalem. But there is another son, Isaac, the son of the promise, born through the barrenness of Sarah. He is the child of promise, born free, and he corresponds to the heavenly Jerusalem and the doctrine of the Gospel. We, St. Paul reminds us, are the children of the Gospel, children of freedom, children begotten through the promise of the Gospel. *Lord Jesus, set us free, and bring us to the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.*

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WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8-13 The Father and the Son Plan Redemption

This passage is one of those wonderful places in the Scriptures where the Father is talking to the Son. (The entire chapter is a back-and-forth conversation). The Father is sending His Son to save and shepherd His people. "I will give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth" (Isaiah 49:8). The Son is the Father's joy, and He is our joy as well. Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! Break out in singing, O mountains! The LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on the afflicted" (49:13). We are the afflicted. We are the objects of His mercy. We are the restored, the revived, the redeemed and forgiven. God be praised! *O Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing to us Your conversation of mercy and Your council of love. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 6:36-51 Will of the Father

What does God want from me in this life? It can be a hard question. We have many choices. Sometimes they are trivial, like where to eat lunch. Other times they are so weighty they seem nearly impossible to bear, such as moving the family to a new city. Which way does God want me to go? How will I know which way follows God's plan? Praise God that His will is perfectly revealed for your life. "This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day." Are you baptized? Have your sins been forgiven in Christ? Then take heart and make your choices boldly. God's will is done no matter what you eat or where you live. *O Father, Thy will be done. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2-11 Precious and Very Great Promises

You can tell Peter must have been a captivating preacher. He has the heart of a shepherd eager to feed Christ's sheep. He sets the hearts of his hearers and readers on promises by which we become "partakers of the divine nature." He speaks greater things than our minds can understand. Christ Jesus, our ascended and glorified brother, has lifted our human nature to the heights of God's eternal power, His right hand. What this means for us, our hearts are yet too small to hold. But we believe it. We know we have it by faith in the precious and very great promises of Jesus' suffering and death by which we were cleansed from former sins. *Grant, O Lord, that I make every effort to supplement my saving faith with virtue granted by Your Spirit. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 We Are Known. We Are Created. We Are Saved.

What a Psalm! David begins this prayer praising God's omniscience (knowledge of everything) and omnipresence (being everywhere). There is no where we can go to hide or escape God's presence. David continues by remembering that God created him. We were knit together in our mother's womb. David ends asking for the Lord's vengeance on evil-doers, and protection for His people. We are known. We are created. We are saved! What comfort. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.*

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