



“The Lord’s Call to Faith in His Grace”

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 February 8-14, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Lord's Call to Faith in His Grace**

The great theme of the week of Sexagesima is that the Lord, by the preaching and teaching of His word, is bringing forth that which He purposes, namely, the righteousness of faith in those who hear and believe it. Also, that the disciple who perseveres in faith and abides in this Word will have no lack of trouble in this life, as St. Paul testifies (2 Corinthians 12:10). But this weakness and wretchedness in the eyes of the world is counted among the mysterious mercies of God, for His strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 8: 4-15 "He Who Has Ears Let Him Hear"**

Jesus gives us an invitation and a warning in one sentence: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Many will hear the Word of God, receive it with joy and believe it for a while, but not all will hold it fast in their hearts. Life in this world is thorny and the enemies of God's Word are manifold. Our sinful nature, the world and the devil all wish to choke and steal the Word from our ears and hearts. Thus, Jesus invites and encourages us to be frequent hearers of His Word so that by His grace His Word would be deeply rooted in our hearts, grow stronger and stronger, bearing the fruits of faith. *Lord, to whom shall we go, You have the Words of eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 24 "Righteousness Received"**

When we read the word "righteousness" in the Bible our first thought should be of the righteousness of Christ, His perfect obedience to the law, His perfect suffering of the troubles of this life. His righteousness is given to us by faith in the promise of the forgiveness of all our sins. We read of this gift of righteousness in Psalm 24:5, "righteousness from the God of his salvation." We must be righteous to ascend the Lord's holy hill, to stand before Him. If it were up to us to be righteous by our works and deeds and efforts, we could never make it. But we are declared righteous by Christ. We receive righteousness from Him as a free and astonishing gift. *Lord, give me the righteousness of Christ that I might stand before You in eternal life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9 "Strength in Weakness"**

We are totally dependent on God for all things, from the breath we take to the free gift of salvation which comes through Jesus Christ. But our flesh usually believes itself self-sufficient and even worthy of the blessings of our Lord. This is why Paul rejoices in his suffering. He boasts that when he is weak, when he suffers from the maladies of the flesh and even from persecution, he cannot boast of himself in any way. It is then that all he has is Christ. And that is enough. The God who loves you and has redeemed you will sometimes use the trials you face to tear down your idols and bring you closer to Him. When this happens, trust Him. Rest in Him alone. He will not fail you. *Lord, help me in my trials to cling to You alone. Amen.*

WED**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10 The Building and Planting Word**

The Lord puts His word in Jeremiah's mouth "to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (1:10). The Lord's word does all these things. It breaks and binds. It kills and makes alive. It roots out and it plants. Note the order. We normally think like this: we live and then we die. But with the Lord's word the order is reversed: we die and then we live. Law first, and then Gospel. Contrition first, and then faith. The Lord's word shows us how we truly deserve God's wrath, and then it shows us God's mercy in Christ. This is the rooting and the planting, and we rejoice in it. *O Lord God, build and plant us with Your enlivening word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THU**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30 Burying What God Gives**

The blessings which the Lord gives are meant to be used. The wicked servant buries the talent given him out of fear and unbelief. Such an unbelieving servant is like a talent buried and kept in the ground - good for nothing. God's gifts are to produce fruit for the kingdom. The word of God which you have heard, like the talent, is not to be buried in your heart never to see daylight, but is to be spread abroad in your life and conversation. Your words, money, influence, energy, prayers, are all talents which God intends to be used with Christian love for the good of your neighbor. If you have gifts (and you do) don't bury them. For in God's economy what you spend you never lose. *Lord, help me to give my talents, trusting in Your mercy. Amen.*

FRI**SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-34 Don't Just Capitalize the "G," Receive the Resurrection**

It's not ok that the "unknown god" stay unknown. Paul doesn't just capitalize the G. He corrects the doctrine. The crowd stays with him while he talks about stone idols. They even seem ok with the idea that they should repent before the Day of Judgment. It's the Resurrection that pushed them over the top. Every religion has laws and doctrines, even the ones with a lowercase g. Every religion has law. Christianity has Gospel: Christ crucified and raised to forgive you your sins and bring you to the resurrection to life eternal. The world stumbles on this truth. We believe and rejoice. *O Risen Lord, fix our eyes upon Your sacrifice and resurrection, and let it always be preached to a world that does not yet know You. Amen.*

SAT**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114 God Goes With Them**

This is a very brief and poetic Psalm whose poetry comes out well in our English. The Children of Israel were led by the Lord who went with them. The sea fled—both the Red Sea and all the people living near it; the Jordan turned back also, as the priests bore the ark into the promised land on dry ground. God brought water out of the Rock (Christ) in the desert. Israel conquered their land. But who, indeed, caused all these places, rivers, and peoples to tremble? Not Israel, but the Holy One in their midst. *Lord, go with us and comfort us by Your presence. Amen.*

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5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 44:23, 25-26, 1-3, 7-8**

Awake! Why do You | sleep, O Lord?*

Arise! Do not cast us off for- | ever.

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;*

arise for our help and re- | deem us.

We have heard with our | ears, O God,*

our fathers have told us the deeds You did in | days of old:

You drove out the nations | with Your hand,*

but you planted our fathers because you | favored them.

You have saved us from our | enemies,*

and have put to shame those who | hated us.

In God we boast | all day long,*

and praise Your name for- | ever.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE **VERSE OF THE WEEK 2 Timothy 3:16**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, because You know that we dare not put our trust in anything that we do, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

TLH 500, LSB 823

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Martin Luther



1. May God bestow on us His grace,
 With blessings rich provide us,
 And may the brightness of His face
 To life eternal guide us
 That we His saving health may know,
 His gracious will and pleasure,
 And also to the heathen show
 Christ's riches without measure
 And unto God convert them.

2. Thine over all shall be the praise
 And thanks of every nation,
 And all the world with joy shall raise
 The voice of exultation;
 For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
 Nor suffer sin to flourish;
 Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
 Their souls to feed and nourish,
 In righteous paths to keep them.