



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

## A LITANY OF TEXTS, PRAYERS, AND HYMNS

---

### INVOCATION & REPENTANCE

**L** In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### PSALM 6

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS; ACCORDING TO THE SHEMINITH. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.
- <sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.
- <sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long?
- <sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- <sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?
- <sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.
- <sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.
- <sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.
- <sup>10</sup> All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

#### CONFESSION OF SINS

**L** Holy and gracious God,

**C** I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

**L** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven.

**C** Amen.

Hymn: LSB 607 “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

## FOR THOSE CONSIDERING ABORTION

PSALM 139

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.
- <sup>19</sup> Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.
- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
- <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

READING:

DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

**L** God of all grace, out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy You have given us life and commanded us not to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body. Teach us to care for these unborn children whom You have created in Your image. Grant your grace to these mothers that, by Your Word and Spirit, they may live according to your will and have courage to nurture and cherish their children. Surround them with those who will

rejoice in these children, and provide for their needs of body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn: LSB 605 “Father Welcomes All His Children”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

## FOR THE ABORTED

PSALM 77

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO JEDUTHUN. A PSALM OF ASAPH.

<sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me.

<sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.

<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old, the years long ago.

<sup>6</sup> I said, “Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart.” Then my spirit made a diligent search:

<sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?

<sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

<sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.

<sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

<sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

<sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

READING:

MATTHEW 19:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went away.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

READING:

JOHN 11:25-27

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

**L** O Lord Jesus Christ, by Your three-day rest in the tomb You hallowed the graves of all Your children, promising resurrection to our mortal bodies. Grant that the bodies of these children may sleep here in peace until You awaken them to glory, when they will see You face to face and know the splendor of the eternal God, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn: LSB 517 (stz. 1, 9, 3) “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

# FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE

## PSALM 103

OF DAVID.

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
- <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- <sup>9</sup> He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- <sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.
- <sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;
- <sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- <sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,
- <sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.
- <sup>19</sup> The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
- <sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!
- <sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

<sup>22</sup> Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD,  
O my soul!

READING:

GENESIS 1:26-31

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

**L** Heavenly Father, receive our heartfelt thanks for newborn children, a gift of Your grace and love for us in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your holy angels to shield them from all dangers of body and soul. Preserve them according to Your good pleasure until that day when they may be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism to receive the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn: LSB 895 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

# FOR ALL PARENTS

PSALM 127

A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF SOLOMON.

- <sup>1</sup> Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
- <sup>2</sup> It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- <sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.
- <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

READING:

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

<sup>1</sup> There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. <sup>2</sup> He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. <sup>3</sup> Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup> So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" <sup>9</sup> After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. <sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and



remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”<sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.<sup>13</sup> Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman.<sup>14</sup> And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.”<sup>15</sup> But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.<sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”<sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.”<sup>18</sup> And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.<sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.<sup>20</sup> And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### COLLECT

**L** Gracious God, we thank You for hearing and answering the prayers of all new parents by granting them the gift of a child. At all times let them see in this child an undeserved gift from Your hand. Strengthen them and all who bear the sign of the cross to be teachers and examples of the Christian faith to this child, and by the gracious leading Your Holy Spirit fulfill what we are unable to do through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn: LSB 863 “Our Father, by Whose Name”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

# CONTINUED PRAYER

## PSALM 19

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.
- <sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- <sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
- <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
- <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- <sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- <sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- <sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## COLLECT

- L** Lord God, heavenly Father, from Your hand we receive all good gifts and by Your grace we are guarded from all evil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that, acknowledging with our whole heart Your boundless goodness, we

may now and evermore thank and praise You for Your loving-kindness and tender mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

Hymn: LSB 594 “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

### PSALM 51

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- <sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

<sup>19</sup> then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

#### COLLECT

**L** Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen

Hymn: LSB 704 “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

Personal Prayer – 5 Minutes

## LORD’S PRAYER

### BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

#### OTHER SUGGESTED HYMNS

LSB 725 – Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 735 – Have No Fear, Little Flock

LSB 756 – Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

LSB 663 – Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

LSB 942 – Kyrie! God, Father

LSB 668 – Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

LSB 676 – Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

LSB 708 – Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

LSB 760 – What God Ordains is Always Good