

1 Peter

1 Peter

Wives, Husbands and Fellowship
1 Peter 3:3-4 to 3:12

TREASURY
of DAILY
& PRAYER



New Testament Reading:
1 Timothy 3:1-16

Qualifications for Overseers

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Qualifications for Deacons

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Mystery of Godliness

¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to

behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. ¹⁶Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.

Writing

Now, as often happens, those who covet preeminence, seeking support for their own cupidity, take advantage of the Apostle's statement when he says: "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." Yet, while praising the desire, the Apostle forthwith qualifies his praise by adding a reason for fear, promptly adding, as he does: "But it behoveth a bishop to be blameless." When he proceeds with an enumeration of the necessary virtues, he explains what this blamelessness is. He, therefore, approves the desire, but warns these people by his precept, as though he plainly said: "I praise what you seek, but acquaint yourselves first with what you are seeking, lest by neglecting to take the measure of your own fitness, you become the more blameworthy and detestable, in that you hasten to be seen by all on the pinnacle of honour." The great master in the art of ruling urges subjects on by approving of their desire, but deters them by fear, in order that he may restrain his hearers from pride, and by praising the office sought, may dispose them for the kind of life required. . . .

Wherefore, that man gives testimony against himself that he is not desiring the office of a bishop, if he seeks the glory of that honour, but not the ministry of a good

work. For a man not only fails completely to love the office, but he is ignorant of it, if, yearning for supreme rule, he feasts on the subjection of others in the hidden reveries of his thought, is glad to hear his own praises, feels his heart surge with honour, and rejoices in the abundance of his affluence. It is, therefore, worldly gain that he seeks under the guise of that kind of honour, whereby worldly gain should have been destroyed, and when the mind thinks to grasp the highest state of humility in order to cherish its own pride, it changes the intrinsic nature of what was exteriorly desired.

—Gregory the Great

Hymnody

Anoint them prophets, men who are intent
To be Your witnesses in word and deed,
Their hearts aflame, their lips made eloquent,
Their eyes awake to ev'ry human need.
—God of the Prophets, Bless the
Prophets' Sons (LSB 682:2)

Prayer of the Day

O God, You led Your holy apostles to ordain pastors in every place. Grant that Your flock, under the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, may choose suitable men for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and may uphold them in their work for the extension of Your kingdom; through Him who is the chief Shepherd of our souls, Jesus Christ, our Lord. (121)

**Suggested Reading from
the Book of Concord**

Apology of the Augsburg
Confession XIII (V) 68–82

21 SEPTEMBER

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Psalmody

- ¹For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could I bear it;²
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could I hide from him.
³But it is you, a man, my I equal,⁴
my companion, my fa- I miliar friend.
⁵We used to take sweet counsel to- I gether;⁶
within God's house we walked I in the throng.
⁷Let death steal over them;
let them go down to She- I ol alive;⁸
for evil is in their dwelling place
and I in their heart.
⁹But I I call to God,¹⁰
and the LORD will I save me.
¹¹Evening and morning and at noon I utter
my com- I plaint and moan,¹²
and he I hears my voice.
¹³He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle I that I wage,¹⁴
for many are arrayed a- I gainst me.
¹⁵God will give ear and humble them, he who
is enthroned I from of old,¹⁶
because they do not change and do I not
fear God.
—Psalm 55:12–19

Additional Psalm: Psalm 119:89–96

Old Testament Reading:
Nehemiah 5:1–16; 6:1–9, 15–16

Nehemiah Stops Oppression of the Poor

¹Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. ²For there were those who

said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

"I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?" Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them." Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised. I

also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Nehemiah's Generosity

"Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work. . . .

Conspiracy Against Nehemiah

"Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. In

it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king." And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, "There is a king in Judah." And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands. . . .

The Wall Is Finished

"So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

New Testament Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Some Will Depart from the Faith

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

A Good Servant of Christ Jesus

"If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

"Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Writing

St. Matthew was an excellent, noble man—not only one of the twelve fountains of consolation, the apostles of Jesus Christ, but also one of the four great spiritual streams of paradise, a holy evangelist, whose words flow from the great fountain in paradise, Jesus Christ. He not only praised the Lord Jesus in his heart and with his tongue, but he also put his quill to paper and wrote

his account as a memorial, and finally he confirmed the truth of his Gospel with his blood. Is this not an honorable man? Pay attention so that everything in and about you is directed toward the glory of the Lord Jesus, according to David's example in Ps. 103:2. In the kingdom of God it is said: "Et quacunq[ue] potes arte placere, place," that is, "Strive with every skill and word, to please your Savior, Christ the Lord." . . . None of the other evangelists described the history of the Lord Jesus to such an extent as Matthew. He also has many beautiful passages that cannot be found in the others. Here the Lord Jesus says (11:28), "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And again (18:20), "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." And in 28:20, "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." These three passages, which should cause the legs of all devout Christians to run quickly to the Church, were written only by Matthew. . . . Ever since that time, his book has always been valued highly. Jerome reports that St. Bartholomew preached the Gospel of Matthew in India. Nicephorus writes that in those lands a collection of St. Bartholomew's sermons existed. Theophylact and others report that St. John, or even Mark, translated the Gospel of Matthew into the Greek language. . . . [Some say] that in the 479th year after Christ's birth, [Matthew's] body was found on Cyprus and on his chest was a copy of his Gospel, and that his body was transferred to Constantinople and buried in the Church of St. Stephan.

—Valerius Herberger

Hymnody

Anoint them priests, strong intercessors they,
For pardon and for love and hope and
peace,
That, through their pleading, guilty sinners
may
Find Jesus' mercy and from sin release.
—God of the Prophets, Bless the
Prophets' Sons (LSB 682:3)

Prayer of the Day

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (F28)

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

St. Matthew, also known as Levi, identifies himself as a former tax collector, one who was therefore considered unclean, a public sinner, outcast from the Jews. Yet it was such a one as this whom the Lord Jesus called away from his occupation and wealth to become a disciple (Matthew 9:9-13). Not only did Matthew become a disciple of Jesus, he was also called and sent as one of the Lord's twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-6). In time, he became the evangelist whose inspired record of the Gospel was granted first place in the ordering of the New Testament. Among the four Gospels, Matthew's portrays Christ especially as the new and greater Moses, who graciously fulfills the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17) and establishes a new covenant of salvation in and with His own blood

(Matthew 26:27-28). Matthew's Gospel is also well-known and beloved for its record of the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12); for the Sermon on the Mount, including the Beatitudes and the Our Father (Matthew 5-7); and for the institution of Holy Baptism and the most explicit revelation of the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:16-20). Tradition is uncertain where his final field of labor was and whether Matthew died naturally or a martyr's death. In celebrating this festival, we therefore give thanks to God that He has mightily governed and protected His Holy Church through this man who was called and sent by Christ to serve the sheep of His pastures with the Holy Gospel.

Suggested Reading from the Book of Concord

Apology of the Augsburg Confession XIIa (V) 83-97

22 SEPTEMBER

Jonah

Psalmody

¹Behold, how good and pleas- I ant it is*
when brothers dwell in I unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of I Aaron,*
running down on the collar I of
his robes!

³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls
on the mountains of I Zion!*

For there the LORD has commanded
the blessing, life for- I evermore.

—Psalm 133

Additional Psalm: Psalm 119:97-104

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18

[The Wall Is Finished]

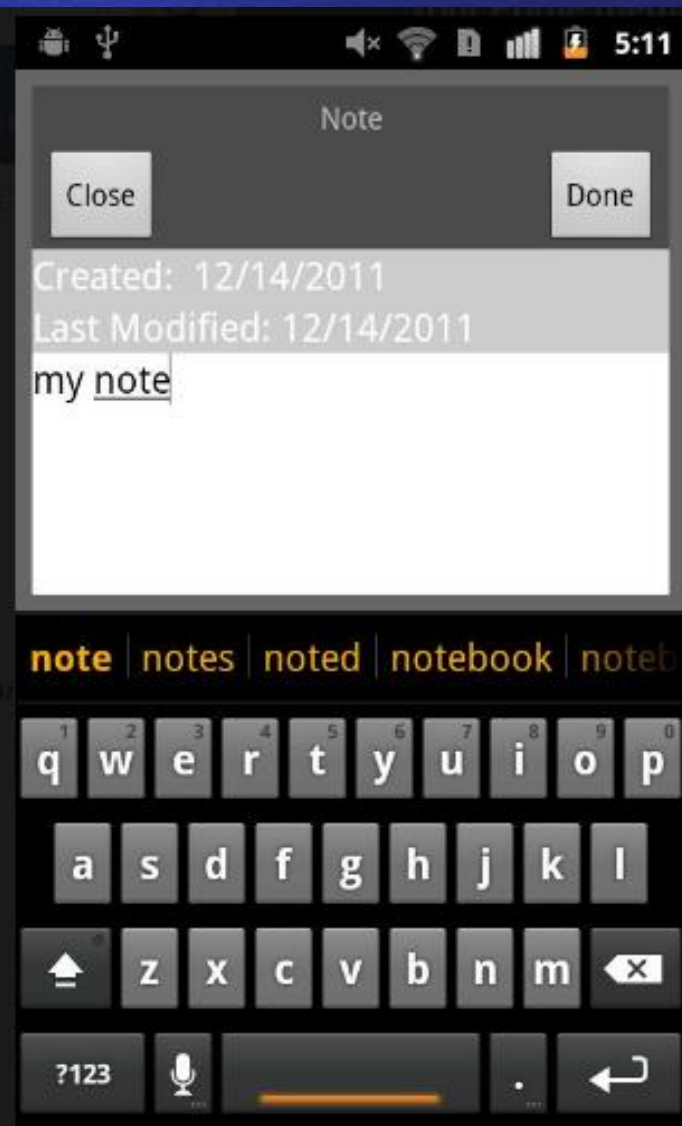
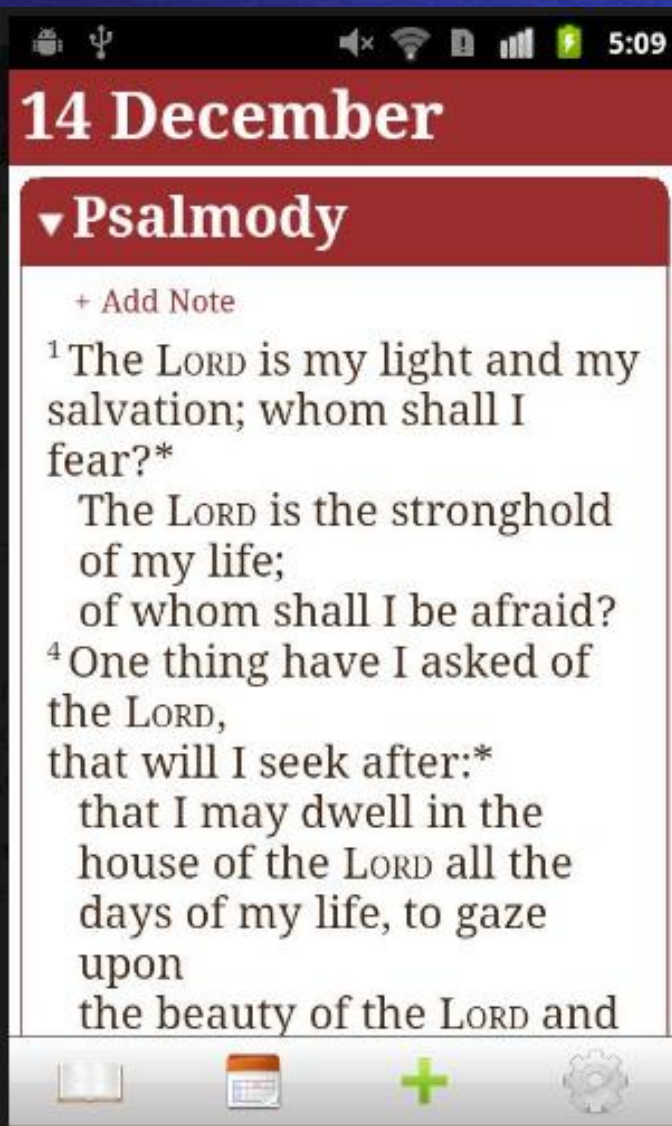
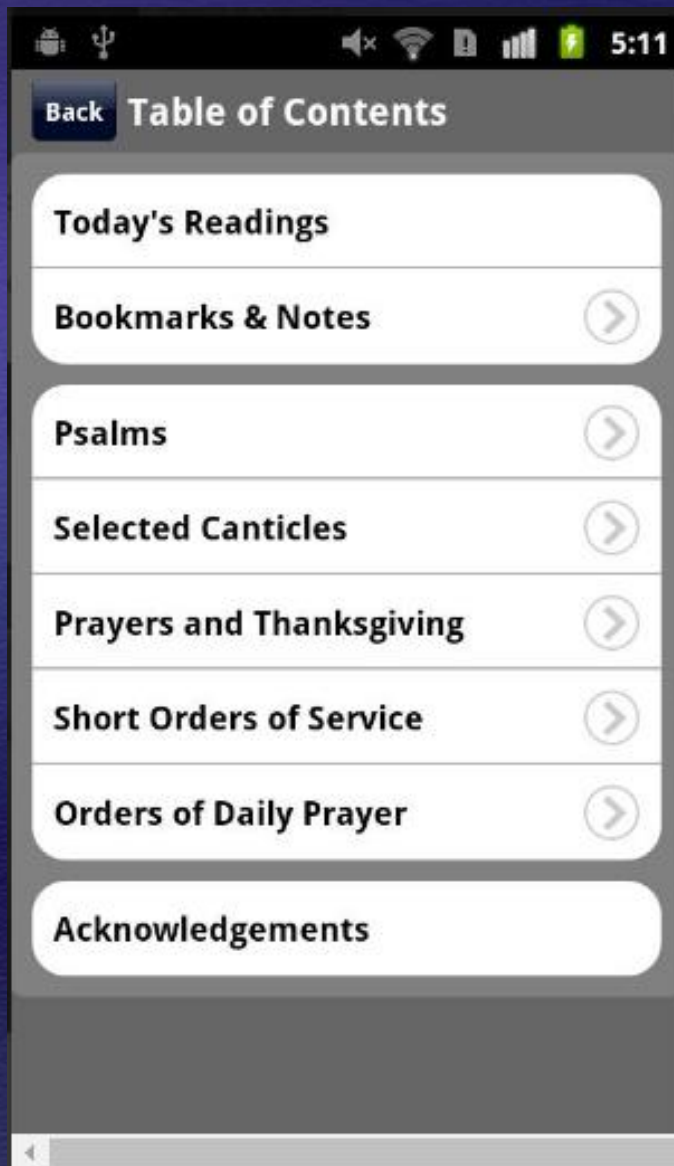
¹Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, ²I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. ³And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes." ⁴The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt. . . .

Ezra Reads the Law

¹And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his

PRAY NOW





Psalmody

Back Table of Contents

- Today's Readings
- Bookmarks & Notes
- Psalms
- Selected Canticles
- Prayers and Thanksgiving
- Short Orders of Service
- Orders of Daily Prayer
- Acknowledgements

against me, and they breathe out violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD* in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD;* be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

—Psalm 27:1, 4-5, 11-14

Additional Psalm: Psalm 24

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 30:15-26

+ Add Note

[A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE]

¹⁵For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved;

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away;

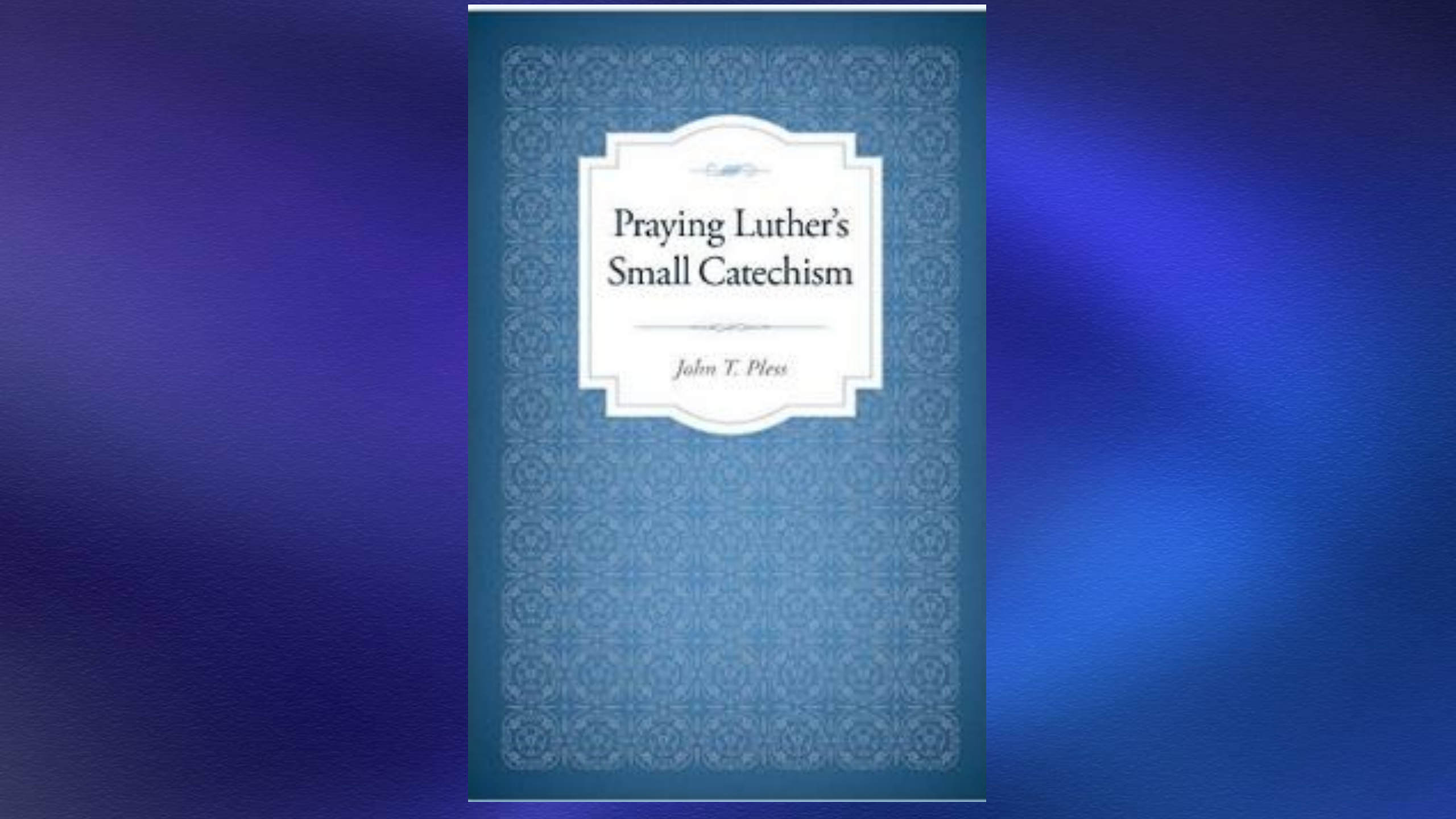
and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

THE LORD WILL BE GRACIOUS

¹⁸Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see



Praying Luther's
Small Catechism

John T. Pless

365 DEVOTIONAL READINGS FROM

MARTIN
LUTHER

DAY
by
DAY

1 Peter

1 Peter

**Jesus was Treated Unjustly and
then Was Gloriously Vindicated
1 Peter 3:18-22**

1 Peter

IV. Instructions and Encouragement

1 Peter 3:18 to 3:22

1 Peter 3:18-22 ESV - 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Peter

IV. Instructions and Encouragement

1 Peter 3:18 to 3:22

1 Peter 3:21-22 ESV - 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

1 Peter

1 Peter

Jesus Example Inspires

1 Peter 4:1-6

1 Peter

Jesus Example Inspires **1 Peter 4:1 to 4:7**

1 Peter 4:1 ESV - 1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1 Peter

Jesus Example Inspires

1 Peter 4:1 to 4:7

1 Peter 4:2-3 ESV - 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

1 Peter

Jesus Example Inspires

1 Peter 4:1 to 4:7

1 Peter 4:4-5 ESV - 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter

Jesus Example Inspires

1 Peter 4:1 to 4:7

1 Peter 4:6 ESV - 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

1 Peter

1 Peter

Nearness to the End Stimulates
Faithfulness

1 Peter 4:7-11

Nearness to the End—Faithfulness

1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:7 ESV - 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

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Nearness to the End—Faithfulness

1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:8-9 ESV - 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

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Nearness to the End—Faithfulness

1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:10 ESV - 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

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Nearness to the End—Faithfulness

1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:11 ESV - 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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1 Peter

1 Peter

Next Week:

Joy Amid Suffering