



Week Seven; May 4-May 10
Theme: Protection

¹ *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
**in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.***

² *I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.*

³ *He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah
God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!*
Psalm 57:1-3

¹⁸ *And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. **And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.*** ¹⁹ *And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.* ²⁰ *I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.*

Hosea 2:18-20

“On that day” the Lord will make a new covenant between his people and all the animals in creation. **Disharmony between man and God, resulting from the fall into sin, also resulted in disharmony between man and nature.** The ground was cursed and now produces thorns and thistles, and the animals are not willingly subject to fallen man. Instead, birds and beasts harm the crops and flocks. But “in that day,” man and animals will live in harmony. The animals will be completely subject to man in that peaceful kingdom (see Isaiah 11:6–9).

The fall into sin also brought disharmony between men. Bow and sword—or bomb and missile—and battle give evidence of that disharmony in every age of the world’s history. Israel experienced it in Hosea’s time when the king of Assyria about 732 B.C. dismembered the kingdom of Pekah and made most of it into Assyrian provinces (2 Kings 15:29). But “in that day,” everyone will be able to sleep safely, because God will have abolished war and weapons. “Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

The deepest disharmony in the world is that between man and his Creator. The evidence is all around Hosea’s people in their lack of faithfulness and love, in their refusal to acknowledge God, in the cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery that fill their cities (4:1, 2). But this enmity between man and God will also be ended “in that day.” It will be like a new marriage, a betrothal ceremony in which God will promise himself to his people for life. As the bride-price, he will

endow his people with his gifts, which will also totally transform their life with one another: righteousness, justice, steadfast love, and compassion will be found in Israel, because God's people will "acknowledge the LORD" (verse 20) as their faithful husband.

When will that day dawn? "That day" or "those days" are other ways of saying "the day of the LORD." That day will be a day of the Lord's judgment (Joel 2:31; Amos 5:18–20) and a day of his salvation (Joel 3:18–21; Amos 9:11–15). "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire.... But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings" (Malachi 4:1, 2). ***"That day" is a prophetic way of describing the time when God will come as Savior and Judge.***

The promises about "that day" are fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:19), and so he put an end to the disharmony that disrupted his creation. "He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found" *LSB 387:3*. The everlasting blessings of that reconciliation will be fully revealed when Jesus comes again in glory. In Hosea's words, he will betroth himself to his people forever. "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:9) Thus the prophet's expression "that day" takes in the whole New Testament era and eternity beyond. (*Excerpt from "The People's Bible, Hosea, Joel, Amos"*)

Prayer suggestions – You can use these or lift up your own. We encourage you to pray these prayers each day. In addition, we urge you to add the names of those printed at the bottom of the page. These are individuals connected in some way to the ministries of Berea and Agape Hill. If you would like someone added to the list, make sure they approve having their name included and email the information to Pastor Jeff.

Monday – Military/National Guard: O Lord God of hosts, stretch forth your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Provide them with strength, courage and discernment whether serving on land, sea or air. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from evil, giving them bravery and loyalty and granting that in all things they may serve honestly through the strength of their Lord and Savior. "And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them saying, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with them, for there are more with us than with them. With him is a thorn of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." *2 Chronicles 32:6-8* Dear Jesus protect those who in selfless service protect us. We pray this in your name in whom we trust. Amen

***I walk in danger all the way. The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May size me unawares
If I should fail to watch and pray. I walk in danger all the way.***

LSB 716:1

Tuesday – Law Enforcement/Police, Highway Patrol, Sheriffs: Almighty God we give thanks for the men and women who tirelessly serve to protect the citizens of the communities they serve. Grant officers divine wisdom, guidance and strength in the stressful and dangerous decisions needed to be made to keep us safe. We pray *Proverbs 2:6-8*, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints." We pray this in the confidence of faith provided by Your Spirit and in the powerful name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Amen.

*I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills condensing;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
When in adversity I know not where to flee,
When storms of woe my soul dismay, I pass through trials all the way.*

LSB 716:2

Wednesday – First Responders/Firefighters, Paramedics, Medical Providers, Chaplains: Great and Holy Father please watch over, guard and protect those who are the first to arrive to help in emergencies. We praise and thank you for fire fighters, paramedics and all who work to meet our medical needs especially in this time of the COVID pandemic. They go before us thinking of the needs of those they serve first. Lord be with them as they face extreme and dangerous conditions and have to make difficult decisions. When they tire, we pray you give them strength. Remind them Savior that "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." *Deuteronomy 31:8* May Your Word be boldly and graciously proclaimed in all places and to all people. In the precious and powerful name of our Savior Jesus. Amen

*And death pursues me all the way, Nowhere I rest securely;
He comes by night, he comes by day,
He takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity today As death pursues me all the way.*

LSB 716:3

Thursday – National Day of Prayer: PRAYER IS A MIGHTY AND POWERFUL GIFT OF GOD. In 1952 President Harry S. Truman signed into law the first Thursday of May as a National Day of Prayer to be an annual observance inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. Because of the faith of many founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long and significant history in America. In 1775 when the Continental Congress met they asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, they called for a National Day of Prayer. Heavenly Father, WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT IS TO CARRY EVERYTHING TO YOU IN PRAYER. May we praise and thank, You, our Creator, Savior, and Preserver that You allow us to come to You with our needs and petitions. We thank You for allowing us to live in a country where we may still pray in public. that we may pray to you and that we live in a country that we may pray in public. Through Your providence, we ask that You protect this precious gift. Draw us away from our many idolatries and heal our nation. Through Your Holy Spirit, lead those who unbelieve, those

who doubt to Your cross where they will find the oneness in You that we celebrate. Keep us steadfast in our faith as we wait upon You. In the name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

***I walk with angels all the way, They shield me and befriend me;
Al Satan's pow'r is held at bay When heav'nly hosts attend me;
They are my sure defense, All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may,
I walk with angels all the way.***

LSB 716:4

Friday – Families of Those Who Protect Us: Holy and Triune God, we pray for the families of the military, law enforcement and first responders. We ask your protection as they watch their loved ones leave home to face dangerous conflicts and situations and as they wait for them to return home safely. Give strength and endurance to each family that often need to care for their children and family affairs alone due to the length of time their spouse is away from home. Amid the changes and chances of this mortal life, we have nowhere to turn but to you, O Lord. Be our anchor in the storms of life, our secure foundation. "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield." *Psalm 5:11-12*
We pray this in our mighty Savior, who gave His life for us. Amen.

***I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me;
And by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.***

LSB 716:5

Saturday – Holy Spirit: "Holy Spirit light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine; Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day." LSB 496 Gracious, guiding and glorious Holy Spirit lead us and protect us according to your holy will. We thank you and praise you for keeping us in the Word, protecting and guarding our faith. "But the Helper, the holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:26-27 We lay all our concerns, needs, and hopes at the throne of grace and we place our trust in You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to provide all we need at the appropriate time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When God's good healing shall allay All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
Then, worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.***

LSB 716:6

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.

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

*As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will When Thou say'st to them, "Be Still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

*When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."*

LSB 715

Some wise advice for this time of quarantine...

Have you ever heard of "Breath Prayers"? They are very helpful for your body, mind and spirit. Inhale a deep cleansing breath. As you inhale think of a positive trait of God, as you exhale breath out a negative trait. For example inhale LOVE, exhale HATE. Breath in PEACE, breath out HOSTILITY.

INHALE:	EXHALE:
<i>Mercy</i>	<i>Revenge</i>
<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Unsympathetic</i>
<i>Faithfulness</i>	<i>Unreliability</i>
<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Unforgiveness</i>

Add other breath prayers as you think of them. Prayer is such a precious gift!

Parish Nurse **Joanie Kolton**, Family Connections Director

PRAYER REQUESTS as of the date of the printing: *Welcome! It is not by accident that our Lord has led us here to this moment. We pray with you for His guidance and encouragement as we strive to be His disciples and share the message of salvation with others. Amen.*

Cancer: *Carol Spatzek, breast, Judy Branson, breast, Tom Brueckner, prostate, Julia Grau, granddaughter of Chet & Marge Grau, eye, Eli Kessler, great nephew of the Heckerts, leukemia, Kathy Schmid, aunt of Robin Mueller, liver, Randy Clinard, former Berea member, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Sharon Beay, step-sister of Ray Leidy, eye melanoma, Ron Schroeder, former member, Stem-cell transplant T-Cell lymphoma, Diane, friend of Shannon Biedenbender (former member), lung,*

Hospitalized: *Robert Brueckner, father of Tom Brueckner, ICU Aurora Grafton, Heart, pneumonia, lung infection.*

Hospice: *Linda, Dearest friend of Sally Goelz (Agape Hill), brain tumor/cancer, Bill Schoeller one of our Luther Manor bible study and church regulars, Luther Manor, Carol Ferry, one of our Luther Manor Bible Study attendees, Luther Manor*

Rehabilitation: *Lorraine Biang, Luther Manor, fall, George DeJarlais, Terry's husband, heart surgery, home. Myrt Tetting, Luther Manor,*

Ongoing needs: *Maxine Dudley, severe back pains, Lane Branson, multiple health challenges, Lavonne Biedenbender, multiple health concerns, Steve Biedenbender, lung disease, Henry Klaves, epilepsy, Irm Tewes, Luther Manor Monday attendee, severe and continuous pain, Shirley McMahon, Aunt of Robin Mueller, transferred to Brookdale Memory Care*

Homebound: *Rev. Richard Borchers, Lutheran Home, Dorothy Britton Brookdale Assisted Living, Rose Eisner Home, Elinor Heitman Harwood Place,*

Birthdays: *5/4 Sandra Olinski, 5/7 Elinor Heitman, Otto Kersten Jr.*

Anniversaries: *5/4 Bob & Marilyn Bergmann, Pastor Jeff & Robin Mueller*

If there are any additional names you would like to see added to our prayer list or if we have forgotten someone, please email Pastor Jeff at jmueller47@yahoo.com