

Lord Jesus because You so willingly laid down Your life to save us even before we cried out for Your mercy, grant us the same confidence that now actively seeking Your mercy You will provide all our daily needs as well. Amen.

I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He also hears their cry and saves them. The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.

In Christ Jesus, who is the Gift of all gifts, which God graciously bestows upon all of humanity, dear fellow redeemed:

Paul writing to Pastor Timothy said this: “Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.” But who among us can claim we have never had feelings of discontent? – not one of us. We all have expressed our discontent already before we even learned to speak. Afterwards the words *“I want ...”* have formed the beginning of many sentences we have uttered throughout our lives.

If there is one overriding tone in all the prayers that Luther taught us to use everyday it is one of thankfulness toward God, the Giver of all good things. Being truly thankful means to be content. The godliness coupled with contentment is trust in God our Savior in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The more we grow in our faith and trust in Him we see how our Lord satisfies all our needs, here in this life and especially in life everlasting. So let us now observe how it is that **The Lord Satisfying All Our Needs Produces Contentment** in us.

I

With David in our Psalm you are able to confess: “I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever. ... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.” You, like David, trust in the God of our salvation.

We also jointly confess this: “The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call on

Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He also hears their cry and saves them." The kindness of the Lord toward the human race throughout all generations is observed in His answering our calls for mercy and salvation. Remember how the crowd on Palm Sunday cried out their "Hosannas" – "Lord save us now!" They recognized the Lord's gracious answer as Jesus humbly rode into Jerusalem, they sang – "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

They may not have known on that day how the Lord would exactly save them by the end of week upon that cross, yet they trusted that He had come to save them as was promised from of old. The Lord Jesus would not skimp on providing what we need for eternal salvation. As He declared from the cross – "It is finished!" – complete, accomplished to the full. Our salvation was not partially provided requiring something from us to add, but it was all done. Jesus, the perfect God/Man Savior, took His holy life lived in our place and sacrificed it in payment for all our sin, even our entire eternal punishment of hell.

Did you notice how the expression "The eyes of ALL look to You, and You give them their food in due season" means that even the unbelieving population throughout the world have eyes looking to the Lord for their daily sustenance? They do not know who this gracious Lord is, but when they fall upon hard times, so that the next meal is in question, many of them even in their unbelief are heard to cry out in desperation: "*O my God! What shall we do?*"

What do you lack in this life, my fellow redeemed? Are you hungry to the point of malnutrition? Are you ill without anyone to help in your time of need? Are you alone with no one to love you? Sure you may have an eating disorder and so are suffering from malnutrition. You may spurn medical care and choose to suffer alone. You may have cut yourself off from all those who love you. But look around you, has God placed anyone in your life who cares enough to supply your needs? In another Psalm of David you have confessed this truth often: "*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*" We are taught how to pray the promises of God and exercise our faith.

II

You have come to know the God of your salvation aright. You know where He is to be found at all times. As David reminds us: "The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He also hears their

cry and saves them.” He promises to be with us until the end of the age with His forgiveness in the Word and Sacrament and consequently know He is not far away unable to hear us. He hears us, even when we do not know what words to use in our desperate need. When all we can do is groan deep within, we are heard and understood by our merciful Lord.

Jesus instructs us in those familiar words from His sermon on the Mount: “[D]o not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Our Lord graciously gives you citizenship in His everlasting Kingdom and supplies you with the real 100% righteous status before Him. We lack not a thing for all eternity. So what presently will the Lord hold back from you?

But we are all too familiar with the lies of Satan, the unbelieving world, and our own sinful flesh which lead us into all sorts of worry, fretting and anxieties. Jesus was familiar with all such lies – remember how after fasting for 40 days and nights He heard the words: *“Command these stones to become loaves of bread.”* *“All these – kingdoms of the world – I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”* Did our Lord Jesus lack anything in His hunger or in His humiliation? After He suffered our eternal punishment on the cross and He cried out – *“I thirst”* was He filled with anxiety? Not at all, His crucifiers gave him to drink and then He confidently placed Himself in the loving hands of His heavenly Father. In all of these temptations and including all those not recorded for us in His 33 years, Jesus never sinned once.

That truth could discourage us if our Lord did this merely to set us an example. But you see, Jesus did all this, fulfilling all righteousness according to God’s holy Law in our place. For this reason you love and trust in Him as your Savior. He did not need to fulfill the Law for Himself, He has an eternal righteousness of His own. But He subjected Himself to the demands and rigors of the Law as a true human being for you and me and all sinners like us.

So when David acknowledges this truth: *“The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.”* we are to know that we, His believers, love Him rightly and shall be preserved throughout this life and into all eternity. The wicked, or unbelievers, who have not one answer for any of their sins, will be cast out from the presence of the gracious Lord separated from His love into outer

darkness only to gnash their teeth in everlasting anguish. While not acknowledging the gracious Lord in this life, automatically they will bow the knee before Him in the judgment, acknowledging that all He had declared for all sinners was indeed true. This is what will intensify the eternal anguish, realizing the truth that was not believed in this life.

The Lord satisfying all your needs produces contentment in you. No need to pack your bags for your transport to heaven, my fellow redeemed. You brought nothing into this world and you will take nothing with you. But just as your Lord is supplying all your needs here in this life, so He promises to give you all that will be needed for the full life He secured for you with His blood and righteousness. Continuing or starting now, enjoy your everlasting life of contentment for His sake and be content forevermore. Amen.