

“The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected by the Spirit”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:1-2, 3-5**
 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom / shall I fear?*
 The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I / be afraid?
 When the wicked came a- / gainst me,*
 my enemies and foes, they stum- / bled and fell.
 Though an army may encamp a- / gainst me,*
 my heart / shall not fear;
 though war should rise a- / gainst me,*
 in this I will be / confident.
 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that / will I seek:*
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days / of my life,
 for in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pa- / vilion;*
 he shall set me high up- / on a rock.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 6: 37-38a**
 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
 Grant, O Lord, we implore You, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance, that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 235, LSB 913
O Holy Spirit, Enter In Michael Shirmer



1. O Holy Spirit, enter in
 And in our hearts Thy work begin,
 Thy temple deign to make us;
 Sun of the soul, Thou Light Divine,
 Around and in us brightly shine,
 To joy and gladness wake us.
 That we, In Thee
 Truly living, To The giving
 Prayer unceasing,
 May in love be still increasing.

5. Thy heavenly strength sustain our heart
 That we may act the valiant part
 With Thee as our Reliance,
 Be Thou our Refuge and our Shield
 That we may never quit the field,
 But bid all foes defiance.
 Descend, Defend
 From all errors and earth's terrors;
 Thy salvation
 Be our constant consolation.

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected by the Spirit

God uses suffering for His own purposes. He saved Joseph and used his suffering to bring about the salvation of Israel. In suffering, we gain insight to who God is, and how He gives us poor, blind sinners overflowing grace and forgiveness. In our baptism, God removes the blinding plank of sin from our own eyes so we can see each other with love. Our suffering will one day end, but the love of Christ endures forever in Eden restored.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:36-42 — Logs Removed from Eyes

We are to be merciful as our Father is merciful. His mercy is shown in our justification instead of our judgment that our sin deserves. On account of His Son, our Lord, the Father brings forgiveness. That forgiveness is overflowing and running over because God's gifts of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus are boundless. Through Jesus' suffering, passion, death, and resurrection the logs in our own eyes are plucked out and we are forgiven. Only with our logs removed, are we made disciples who forgive our brothers' and sisters' specks. *Lord, remove our logs to see each other with love. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 — Suffering Causes Insight

God uses suffering to cause us to look for deeper insight into God's Word, to pray more, and to receive more of His gifts and benefits. Even when our souls cling to dust and waste away with sorrow, God's Word of promise is for us. Because His Word is with us, we run in the way of His commandments. He answers our prayers, is with us, and broadens our understanding. He raises us to follow His way of faithfulness in the Word made Flesh, instead of the false way of unbelief.

Lord, keep us on the way of faithfulness. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 — Suffering of the Present Time

We suffer in this world. Our foolishness causes suffering. We also suffer the bearing of individual crosses. All creation moans under these sufferings for now. Not forever. Not always. Until then, creation is like a woman ready to give birth. When that happens, the pain and suffering are forgotten quickly due to the joy of the birth. In the same way, there will come a future glory for those who have the "first fruits of the Spirit." Suffering will end when God's mercy restores Eden. *Lord, be with us in our time of suffering. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 — Deliverance from Hypocrisy

Isaiah 58 begins by showing us that the worship of Judah had become ritualistic, done to earn God's favor, not from thankful hearts of love. They viewed the sacrifice as a "we scratch your back and you scratch ours" type of exchange. The people would suffer for their hypocrisy. In their suffering, they remembered God's Word, repented of their false belief and found their rest in God's undeserved mercy. They were delivered from their afflictions to a new life of faith. *Lord, help us rest in Your mercy. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 — How We Treat Enemies

What are we to do with our enemies? Are we to return hate for hate and pain for pain? No. We are to love and pray for our enemies and persecutors who oppose God and His Word. While we were His enemies, Jesus died for us, to forgive us and to redeem us. Not only us, but He died for those who still hate Him. On account of Jesus, the Father still makes the sun rise and set. He endures evil because He is good. On account of His goodness, we are made perfect and confess all that Jesus has done for a sinner such as me. *Lord, help us respond to hate with love. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-17 — Master of My Fate

The poet William Ernest Henley was wrong. We are, in fact, not the masters of our fate nor the captains of our souls. (Invictus) We belong to the Lord Jesus. He is our Master. In life and death, we belong to Him on account of His life, bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection. We are governed by the law of love because each is in Christ and has the same salvation. "That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness." (Small Catechism, Second Article) *Lord, we praise You, our Master. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 50:15-21 — Am I in the Place of God?

Just because someone says they forgive you, doesn't mean you feel it. Just look at Joseph's brothers. Guilt was still eating away at them for how they treated their little brother. Joseph suffered in a pit of death and slavery. God raised him to be equal to Pharaoh. His words were Pharaoh's words. Today though, Joseph's words are God's words of absolution, forgiveness, and the removal of the yoke of suffering. They were forgiven. God meant this for good. Christ on the cross also declares that this was meant for your good. In Him, you are forgiven. *Lord, hold the cross of Jesus before our eyes. Amen.*