

“The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit”



**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:1, 7, 9, 11-12, 14**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry / with my voice!\*  
 Have mercy also upon me, and / answer me.  
 You have / been my help;\*  
 do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my sal- / vation.  
 The Lord is my light and my sal- / vation;\*  
 whom / shall I fear?  
 Teach me Your / way, O Lord,\*  
 and lead me in a / smooth path.  
 Do not deliver me to the will of my adver- / saries;\*  
 for false witnesses have risen a- / gainst me.  
 Wait on the Lord; be of good / courage,\*  
 and He shall streng- / then your heart.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Matthew 16:24 NKJV**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, who has prepared for those that love You such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost**

TLH 231, LSB 768  
 Martin Luther



1. We now implore the Holy Ghost  
 For the true faith, which we need  
 the most,  
 That in our last moments He may  
 befriend us  
 And, as homeward we journey,  
 attend us.  
 Lord, have mercy!

4. Thou highest Comfort in every need,  
 that neither shame nor death  
 we heed,  
 That e'en then our courage may never fail us  
 When the Foe shall accuse and  
 assail us.  
 Lord, have mercy!

**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 Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit**

Christians do good works. The Bible is very clear about this. But what is the relationship between our justification, that is, our forgiveness and reconciliation to God, and those good works? The Bible is also very clear about this: "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5 NKJV). This week our meditations will present to us a God who works for us our justification to be received by faith alone, and who also works in us our sanctification, which is not merely to take up holier outward living, but that we would be conformed to the image of Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 5:1-11 Guilt and Absolution**

Peter has a bad conscience. When he sees the sign which Jesus performs in the miraculous catch of fish he knows that he is in the presence of the utterly holy. Like so many others, from Moses and Isaiah to the shepherds abiding in the fields, he is afraid for his life in the presence of the holy. Why? He is sinful. "Depart from me" is all he can muster, indeed the exact opposite of what Jesus would have Peter (and us) ask of him. To our guilt and to Peter's, Jesus says, "have no fear." Jesus has come to bring forgiveness and life to sinners – like Peter. Like you. Do not say "depart" but "come, Lord Jesus." *Forgive me and renew me. Give me a clean conscience. I am not worthy, but You will not depart from me out of Your great love. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119, fifth part (HE v33-40) Answered Prayer**

In our psalm nearly every line begins with a word of action, a prayer. Go ahead and look at it again to see what I'm talking about. It's okay, I'll still be here (tick, tick, tick). See it? You are asking God to do specific things for you: *teach me, incline my heart to Your testimonies, give me understanding, turn away my reproach*, etc. Now notice in this psalm how God *accomplishes* all those things in you and for you by His *word*, by His *testimonies*, by the word and promises of God which give to you exactly what they say: the forgiveness of sins and a good conscience. He loves you. He will answer your prayer. He will do it.

So pray: *Teach me, O Lord, by Your word and revive me, that is, give me life according to Your righteousness and not my own. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 3:8-17 The Encouragement We Need**

*And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?* The assumptions behind the question are these: One, Christians follow after Christ, His pure word and sacraments, and two, there will be those who seek your harm because of it. But amazingly, the question also disregards the persecutor "And who is he?..." Meaning "he doesn't matter." His threats, his persecutions, his taking of our life, livelihood, and goods are of no avail. Though the world scoffs at you God is on your side. You have a good conscience born of baptism and the evil man will be ashamed by it (vs. 16). Christ lives and so will you. Your vindication comes from Him. Let the world snarl. Your risen King reigns. *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your word. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 16:14-21 Divine Re-Branding**

The events surrounding the Exodus from Egypt - the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and the giving of the 10 Commandments - was in many ways the identity of the Old Testament Church, in addition to her awaiting the promised Messiah (Gen. 3:15). But through Jeremiah, God tells His people that the day will come when they will not be known for the Exodus, but for God's gathering of all people together to Himself. Speaking of His Cross, Jesus says "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (Jn 12:32 NKJV). Thus God has drawn you to Him by His blood. The Exodus was but a shadow.

God has called you out of slavery to the freedom of His gospel. *Jesus, bring me near to You and Your Church by Your word and promises. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 16:13-26 The Offense of the Cross**

The life of the Christian and the life of Christ are inexorably linked together. By His grace, His life is our life. His righteousness is our righteousness. And amazingly, His cross is also ours. His cross alone procured our salvation, but as the world hated Him it will also hate His followers for whom crosses literal and figurative cannot be far removed. That's you. But even as you bear the reproach of the world, as others think you strange or even bigoted, know that your cross is also Christ's. He lays it upon those whom He loves. He is with you. Do not deny Christ for the approval of this dying world. As you have been baptized into

Christ's death, so you too will know His resurrection, His life. Embrace your cross. Embrace Jesus. *Lord, be with me always, for I trust You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 7:36-50 Faith Before Love**

Those who are forgiven love much. That's what Jesus is teaching here. He is not saying that because she loved she is forgiven. That would be to put the cart before the horse and make our justification a matter of the law. The love she openly shows to her Lord is consequent to the faith which He has worked in her, the faith which saves. "We love Him because He first loved us" says St. John. So Jesus tells her "Your faith has saved you." This faith keeps coming back to Jesus and His forgiveness of sins. And you know what? From faith, in response to what God has done for us, we cannot help but love God and others, though imperfectly this side of glory. Faith justifies and gives a clean conscience, and love cannot help but follow. *Lord, let me receive Your forgiveness and so love others. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 113 The Condescension of God**

Usually if we say someone is condescending, it is a negative thing. We mean they're being patronizing or needlessly simplistic. But to say that God is condescending, literally that He "comes down", that He humbles Himself (vs. 6) it really is an amazing thing. That's who our God is. He is always "coming down" in a Virgin's womb, in a manger bed, on a cross, in a tomb, in bread and wine, in water and word, in the conversation and consolation of Christians. There is the God who does not hesitate to become lowly, indeed so lowly so as to be despised by some, in order to lift up the needy (vs. 7). Go to Divine Service. See there the God of the Bible, the God who condescends, who comes down from on high to bring you to Himself. *God grant it! Amen.*

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