

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:16, 18, 1-2, 5, 15, 20**

Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- / cy on me,\*  
for I am desolate and af- / flicted.  
Look on my affliction / and my pain,\*  
and forgive / all my sins.  
To You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.\*  
O my God, I trust in You; Let me not / be ashamed.  
You are the God of my sal- / vation;\*  
on You I wait / all the day.  
My eyes are ever / toward the Lord,\*  
for He shall pluck my feet out / of the net.  
Keep my soul, and de- / liver me;\*  
let me not be ashamed, for I put my / trust in You.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 1:45**

“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken from the Lord.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, the Protector of all that trust in You, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us Your mercy that, You being our Ruler and Guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

TLH 324, LSB 609

Erdmann Neumeister



1. Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2. We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4. Come, ye sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept His invitation;  
Come, obey His gracious call,  
Come and take His free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter Passion:  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.



**“The Repentance Wrought By the Spirit”**

**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.



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**THEME OF THE WEEK: The Repentance Wrought By the Spirit**

The Church Year is endlessly new, even if it repeats every year. This year, for example, the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes over Sunday. But how wonderfully it fits with this week! In place of Christ's twin parables where He comes to seek and to save the lost, rejoicing over every sinner who repents, we have Mary's song of joy in "God her Savior," the one who regards the lowly, raises the humiliated, and has mercy above all. It is the Lord's pleasure to seek us out with His Word. Blessedness is to be found by that Word, found in that Word. So John leaps for joy at the visit of Christ; Elizabeth stands astonished at what great gifts faith receives from God; and the mother of our Lord sings the great New Testament Psalm: He remembers the mercy He promised.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56—The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

"Blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken from the Lord." In light of Zechariah, the Visitation might seem like a knowing glance shared among women. But the merits of femininity and maternity aren't what make Mary blessed; it's the Word of God, treasured and trusted in faith (Luke 11:28). The Church still calls Mary "blessed" and even "mother of God" today. We do it not for her sake, but for her Son's. The promise to Abraham concerning his Seed is now remembered. Blessed is faithful Mary; but holy is His Name. *Remember Your mercy, Lord, and bless us. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:17-24—Eye-opening Counsel**

The bountiful dealings of the Lord are sought in His Word. How often have we gained new insight there? We learn about ourselves and the depth of our fallen condition; we learn about God—how His wisdom and work surpasses us. And as David prays, the Holy Spirit must open our eyes to this, or the Scriptures remain a closed book for us. The ways of this world are often in conflict with the commandments of God. Those who treasure His testimonies will be strangers here. But we have sure counsel in God's commandments and promises. *Lord, make Your testimonies my delight. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-11—Firm in Faith, or in Convenience?**

In Psalm 73 Asaph is about to give up because the good guys always lose. He wakes from his foolishness at the thought of "offending against the generation of God's children." Peter echoes this when he reminds us that our brothers bear these same sufferings all over the world. Can we be so self-centered as to think we have it so bad? Are we drunk on our own pride, saying, "how could this happen to me, of all people!?" *Humble yourself under the cross God sends, that your exaltedness may come from His mercy and not your pride. Lord, take my anxiety and establish me firm in faith. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Micah 7:18-20—Uniquely Merciful**

Mary magnifies the Lord because He is steadfast in His mercy. That is the primary characteristic of our God that distinguishes Him from all others: His steadfastness is not known in His self-absorption, His just punishment, or His manifest beauty in the world. He discloses Himself chiefly by showing mercy and pity, by forgiving sins, by having compassion. He wages war against our enemies—even if they are our own sinful hearts—and always to save and rescue.

Who is like Him? The Father of our Lord Jesus stands alone. *Lord, do not be angry with me forever. Pass over my sins for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32—Pride Before Fall**

To rest in the Lord's steadfast mercy is better than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. There is no honor in being a prodigal. The Lord's mercy is, to be sure, sufficient to redeem the world's failures. But the greater and unresolved tragedy of this parable is the older son, who despised and resented the mercy of the father. Here he thought he was earning his place; the truth was that he was always with his father, and all that was his father's belonged to the son also. Will this one also be found according to mercy? *Lord, preserve us from pride and self-justification, and make Your mercy our treasure. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-18—The Surprise of the Lord's Mercy**

What did Saul see when the scales finally fell from his eyes? He saw how confused he had been, that all of his zeal for the Lord had persecuted Him rather than promoted Him. Cut to the heart, what can he do? "Repent and be baptized," as Peter preached. Here is where St. Paul's great preaching of Justification touches the ground: what is the hope for sinners and enemies of God? It is in Jesus Christ, whom they crucify. He dies for them. He justifies the ungodly. Who is more surprised, Ananias or Paul? *Thanks be to You, Lord, for You have redeemed me and given me Your Name. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25—Remember, but Only According to Your Goodness**

Psalm 25 is a good remedy to the accusation that "the Church is full of hypocrites." It is first and foremost a confession of our sins. But it is also a plea that the Lord would guide us, lead us, teach us, instruct us, correct us, and sanctify us. Those who wait for the Lord, endure suffering, and bear hatred are not to do so in their sins, but in integrity and uprightness. By no means can their uprightness or integrity overcome their guilt. The Lord must pardon our sin, because it is great. That is what Christ has come for. This is Israel's redemption. *Lord, instruct me in the way You choose, and deliver me. Amen.*