

“The Repentance Wrought by the Spirit”



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 15:2**
 “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

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



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| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |

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 Repentance Wrought by the Spirit

“This man, this Jesus, receives sinners and eats with them.” The Pharisees utter these words with contempt and vile hatred. And yet, Jesus wears this disgraceful slur like a badge of honor. Of course He eats with sinful men. Of course He searches for the lost sheep. Of course He welcomes back the prodigal son. Of course He brings Saul to repentance and sends him to the Gentiles. Of course He does all of this. What other option is there for Him? He came to forgive sin and to forgive the sinner. To do so, He must receive them and then eat with them. He must grant them repentance and then give them His body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. To be numbered with the sinners is the best place to be, for that is the place where Jesus is.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-10—Silly Rejoicing

This silly shepherd goes and finds “the one.” He recklessly leaves the 99 to go and search for that foolish wandering sheep who couldn’t keep in the fold. He couldn’t keep himself on the path or in line with the rest. The shepherd searches over valley and vale, and when he finds the lost sheep, he throws a party. What a ridiculous thing to do! His friends surely would question this man’s sense. Why throw a party for a sheep too dumb to keep itself safe? That is how it works with Jesus. He does the unexpected thing of the Gospel, eschewing the normal and rational. A sensible shepherd would leave the one sheep in the wilderness, for that is what the sheep deserves. Jesus doesn’t. He finds us and rescues us and rejoices with the angels over our forgiveness. *Good Shepherd, never stop seeking Your foolish lost sheep. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:17-24—Plotting Princes

The things of the Law, the things of God’s commands and testimonies, must be revealed to me. They are too high and good and perfect for a poor miserable sinner like me to understand, let alone keep. My eyes must be opened to them through the light of the Gospel. In this way, those plotting princes can be kept at bay. The princes that plot are the princes of darkness; the demons and the devil. They plot against me in order to keep hidden the Gospel of forgiveness. They conspire to keep me bound to the Law, a never-ending ascent whose every rung climbed brings me further away from the destination. My prayer is that the Lord’s will be done, that He does away with the schemes of the devil so that His Gospel might be spoken into my ears and I may know that I am forgiven. *Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-11—Humble

The devil prowls, seeking someone to devour. That is what he does. He never tires, never wavers, never takes a day off. His work is to bring me to damnation. Yet as I suffer the things of this fallen world and the teeth of the devil, I know for certain that I am not alone. Others also suffer. This is the Christian life: suffering under the cross. We are encouraged to remain humble, that is, we are encouraged to always know that we are nothing in and of ourselves. There is no chance that we, on our own, can resist the devil; his evil works and ways. The comfort is that, as the Lord keeps us firm in the faith, His mighty hand will always be upon us, comforting us when faint, while at the same time crushing the devil with a nail-marked fist. *God of all grace, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us in Your promise of salvation. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Micah 7:18-20—A God Like You

Is there any other God like ours? All the false gods do things differently. They all tally good works against bad; and the result is never comforting to us. Every other god lays before us our sins and never picks them up. Every other god’s anger rages and burns forever, never quenched, never satisfied. But our God isn’t like all the others. He pardons iniquity. He has compassion. He tramples all sin underfoot. He takes all sin off of us and throws them into the depths of the sea where they will never see the light of day again. Go ahead, try and find another god like ours. Scour the world and plumb the deepest places of your imagination. Never will you find a god of forgiveness apart from the One Who dies for the sinner and is crucified for those who don’t deserve it. *Dear Father, delight in Your steadfast love. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32—Prodigal

Look at the son on the long road back home. He wants to be taken back as a hired servant in order to make up for all the wrong that we have done. It makes sense. If God is mad at our sins He will be happy with our goodness. No! Our Heavenly Father comes running to us with arms wide open, embraces and kisses us, even before we have the chance to promise to work off the debt that we owe Him. Sins forgiven and welcomed back as sons, even though we had once wished our Father dead. There we are, with His righteous robe wrapped around us and His own name placed upon us with His signet ring. There we are, at a feast we don’t deserve, eating the fattened calf of celebration and salvation. For we were once dead, but now we are alive; we were lost, but now we are found in Christ. *Heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ, welcome us back to You, not as servants, but as sons. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-18—Jesus Uses A Sinner

Saul is a pretty bad guy. Some might call him the worst of sinners, the least of all men. In fact, Saul calls himself that. He persecuted the Church. He put Christians in chains bound for Jerusalem and their ultimate stony end. He watched Stephan be murdered and he cheered the whole way through. Yes, he persecuted the Church and so he persecuted Jesus. If there was ever a man who deserved eternal death and damnation, it was Saul. Yet Jesus brings even this sinner of sinners to repentance. Jesus, miracle of all miracles, even died for the likes of Saul. And then He used him to preach the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins to the Gentiles. Who better to preach such a thing than a former racist murdering bigot who should be eternally dead and yet, by God’s boundless mercy, stands forgiven through Christ? *Dear Jesus, thank You for the forgiveness that You have shown to Saul, and to me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25—Remember Me

God, remember me, not for my sake, but for Yours. Take my guilt away for it is great; so great that it has become unbearable and drags me down to the depths of Sheol and the pits of despair. In the afflictions of my heart, be gracious to me. In the weight of my sin, be merciful to be and exchange Your yoke for mine. In the peril of death, reach down through the grave and take hold of my life. Make me to know You and Your ways. Grant me repentance so that I may hear of Your salvation and know that I am forgiven. Instruct me in the Way, lead me in paths of righteousness. Humble me under Your cross so that I might be saved. Be faithful to me, a faithless sinner who deserves none of what I ask. May Your steadfast love last forever and ever. Lift up my soul so that I may delight in Your just decrees. Redeem me from sin and death and the devil, for Christ’s sake alone. Amen.

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