



# Around the Word Devotions + the week of April 27-May 3, 2025

## THEME OF THE WEEK: He is Risen to Bring Us Forgiveness and Faith

Everything that Jesus did in His life and death was for us. His birth is for us; His teaching for us; His dying for us; and His resurrection is for us. His resurrection means our sins are forgiven. His resurrection means our death is conquered and our grave is open. His resurrection means that we have nothing to fear in life and death. Death left scars in the hands and side of Jesus, and as we behold these with Thomas all of our doubts and fears are scattered, and in their place is faith and comfort, the confession that Jesus is not only Lord and God, but “our Lord” and “our God.” Christ is risen indeed!

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31 Peace Which Surpasses Our Sins

“Peace be with you.” That’s the core of the reality which we have through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Peace. Because we have inherited the sin of Adam, we are enemies of God. We, in our sin, are at war with Him. But because Christ has come and has suffered the punishment of our sins and has given to us His righteousness, we are declared to be, not the enemies of God, but His friends. We are set at peace. That peace comes particularly to us through these words: “I forgive you.” In those blessed words we are forgiven and declared to be at peace with God, through Jesus’s death and resurrection. *Lord, thank You for setting me at peace with You through the declaration that in You my sins are forgiven. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111 The Lord is Gracious and Merciful

The psalmist praises God: “He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.” Indeed, our Savior fulfilled His covenant promise as He provided His body and blood for the life of the world. We continue to receive the benefits personally as we are nourished by His body and blood each Lord’s Day. While receiving, we are called to remember, as Luther comments, that “it is grace that His blood brings us from sin to righteousness, from death to life, from the devil to God. It is mercy that He unceasingly forgives us our sin.” *Lord, we give You thanks for Your generous outpouring of grace and mercy through the blood of Your Son. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5:4-10 Washed in Victory

When we look around at the world, we are tempted to be afraid. The world, after all, often looks big and scary and it likes to act like it has all authority. But St. John reminds us that all of us who are born of God, all of us who are the Lord’s Baptized, have already overcome the world. We have been born of water and the spirit. We have Christ’s atoning blood placed into our mouths. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit. And with these we need not fear the world, nor sin, death, or devil, because they have all already been conquered by Jesus. He belongs to us and we belong to Him and so what can these things do to us? As Jesus has said: “Fear not, I have overcome the world.” *Lord, thank You for overcoming the world and giving me that same victory in You. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27 My Redeemer Lives

Jesus lives and that means Job will live too. The Redeemer given into death has conquered death. He leads us through the grave and out again with Him. Job’s skin will be destroyed, yet he will rise in his flesh and his eyes will see God. We believe in the resurrection of the body. This is better than vague and immaterial ideas about ‘heaven.’ Jesus preaches a resurrection faith. You will, in your flesh, rise from the grave and live. Take heart, even as the wages of sin is death, the free gift of God is life everlasting in Christ Jesus our Lord, and our Redeemer. *O LORD, through the resurrection of Your Son, grant us to rise in our bodies and rejoice in You. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 21: 15-19 Feed My Sheep

Jesus restored Peter to his office in accordance with the promise He made before His suffering and death. In this text, we also see Christ giving Peter a Divine directive to feed His flock. This reminds us of the primary reason for which God sends pastors into His Church. They are to feed and tend God’s flock as under shepherds of the Good Shepherd—Jesus Christ. This feeding is found in the Word and Sacraments that Jesus gives as the instruments to care for His flock. Even as the Christian walks through the valley of the shadow of death, the pastor is there as Christ’s man to help him follow Christ through death into life. *O Lord, keep my pastor faithful to Your Holy Word, that I may be brought to good pasture. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-2:3 Like Newborn Infants

This Sunday’s Latin name, Quasimodogeniti, comes from the antiphon for the introit, found in this epistle reading. Here, we see the pastoral heart of St. Peter, who is feeding His flock and the Church of all time, through the preaching recorded in this Epistle. Part of true Apostolic preaching is exhortation to holy living. This kind of preaching certainly accuses us in our sin, but it is also preaching that we, who have been born anew through the water and the Word in Baptism, can delight in. God’s instruction is food to the Christian, and we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. *O Lord, teach me to delight in Your statutes and not to forget Your Word. Amen. (Ps. 119:16)*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 4 Sleeping in Heavenly Peace

In the midst of our distress, especially the distress which comes in light of death, what can bring any hope or joy? The promise that just as Christ was raised from the dead, so too will we. We can lay our heads down in sleep, the beautiful picture of the scriptures for our death in Christ, knowing with full confidence that we will be awakened by Him on the last day. “In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” That is our constant hope and joy in the midst of all trial. *Death’s poison cannot harm me now, Thy blood new life bestoweth; My shadow from the heat art Thou, When noonday’s sunlight gloweth. When I’m by inward grief opprest, On Thee my weary soul shall rest, As sick men on their pillows. Amen.*

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