

“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 **Romans 14:8**
 “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then,
 whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 2-8, 2023

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

Who are you? You are God's redeemed. You are bought with blood. You are purchased from the devil and set free from his tyrannical reign. You are purchased by the Son for the Father's kingdom of light and life. Make no mistake: you are not simply set free from something; you are set free for something. You are set free for the freedom of God's kingdom, to serve Him, freely, in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Set free from darkness for living in the light, from unrighteousness for living in holiness, from death for living in life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 "Why?"

Why was it granted to Elizabeth to be with child in her old age? Why was Mary chosen to carry the Lord Jesus in her womb? Why has God looked upon the humble estate of His people and exalted them? Why has He filled the hungry with good things? Why has He called and enlightened you with His Gospel? Gathered you into His Church? Sanctified and kept you in it? Why? Because He is a God of compassion and mercy, from generation to generation. All of His gifts are undeserved and purely from His mercy. *We magnify You, O Lord! We rejoice in You, our Savior! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 "Given"

A dead man can't do anything. He cannot ask God to give him life, he cannot put false ways far from him, he cannot chose the way of faithfulness. These words of Psalm 119 are the words of those who have been brought from death to life by the Lord God. You are no longer dead in sin but given life by God. He has given you life to meditate on His works and Word, to cling to His testimonies, to run in the way of His commandments. *Lord Jesus, sustain the life You have given me according to Your Word! Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 "Hope"

Futility. Despair. Hopelessness. This is what all creation knows. But those things are no longer the truth for you. You are Jesus' redeemed people, redeemed from that death and adopted into His Father's kingdom. Yes, you still suffer in this world. You suffer because of your sin and the sin committed against you. But these things will not endure. Not forever. You have God's Word and promise: you will be set free from this bondage and have the freedom of the glory of the children of God. *Gracious Lord, sustain us in our present sufferings with the assurance of glory to come. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 "From/For"

When we think of fasting and abstaining, we immediately think of fasting "from" the thing. Abstain "from" sugar, chocolate, TV, whatever. No one ever likes fasting, of course, but deep down we know that abstaining from a thing is good for us. Yet true fasting as God would have it is for the good of others - fasting "for" their good rather than just abstaining "from" something. Jesus lived and died "for" the other, for you, to cleanse you. He has set you free to live for the good of those around you. *Lord, cleanse our hearts from selfishness that we may live for others! Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 "Love"

When we hear Jesus' command to love, we ask, "Who? How much?" Sinful hearts put limits on love; they put up fences around it. We can love those who love us - but if they hurt us? That's it! No more! But that's not perfect love. Only God's love is perfect... and in perfect love He gives His Son into death for us. No limits, boundaries or borders. In perfect love He lays down His life to save us from our sinful selves. *Lord, open our eyes to see our sins so that we would confess our weakness and cling only to Your perfect love! Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-17 "Account"

"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God." To stand on the Judgment Day before God and give an account of yourself... that's a frightening thought, isn't it? Yet consider this, you baptized of God: you stand before God in the righteousness of Jesus, dead to sin and alive in Him. You give an account of yourself whenever you confess your sins: "I, a poor, miserable sinner..." And then you hear God's judgment: "For the sake of Jesus your sins are forgiven. Go in peace." *We thank You, God, that Your kingdom truly is righteousness, peace, and joy! Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92 "Firmly Planted"

The wicked flourish. God's redeemed flounder. The wicked sprout and grow and prosper while the people of God seemingly wither and die. The psalmist reminds us of the truth: it is the wicked that are doomed to destruction forever. Rather it is the righteous who are planted firmly and cannot be moved. The truth of God's promise is that He has planted us firmly in the courts of His house, forever full of life, who cannot ever wither and die. *You, Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Pastor Hopfensperger. He and Kirsten are blessed with four children: Andrew (and wife Christal), Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah. He serves Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky, Michigan. (www.peacelutheransandusky.com)