

## 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 Psalm 119:25-32

“Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.”

## 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

**O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

TLH 235, LSB 913  
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.



Around the Word Devotions + June 27-July 3, 2021

“The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected 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.

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

This week we hear of the life of the Christian. Cheeks are turned and the good of our neighbor is always set before us. The Christian should bear the marks of the cross, not upon hands and feet, but upon shoulder and back as we pick up our cross and follow our Savior. But truth be told, any and all of this is not our work. Neither is our confession of faith. All of this is given and granted to us by our Heavenly Father. He sends His Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep us in the one true Christian faith; that we might see in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, and so that we might see others as our brothers or sisters for whom Christ died.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:36-42—Specks and Logs**

Are we supposed to point out sin? When faced with this text, the answer is not quite so clear. But perhaps we should ask the purpose of pointing out sin. Is it to make our neighbor feel small and little and worthless? Is that the end? Or is it so that we can feel big and important and better than? Certainly with these two examples our own loggy-eyes will get all clouded. Perhaps this is why our Lord calls us hypocrites, for if we can't acknowledge the forest in our own eyes then we certainly shouldn't point out the pollen in our neighbor's. But if our concern is for our neighbor, if we truly care about him and desire that he might be forgiven for the speck in his eye, that Christ might wash it out with holy water, then that is a whole different story. And then that, of course, is good. *Gracious God, show us our logs that they might be forgiven us. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Genesis 50:15-21—Scared Sinners**

The sinner is tempted to doubt the forgiveness spoken over him, as if it is conditional and can one day be taken away. With Jacob dead, Joseph's brothers thought that their days of mercy were numbered. But that is not how forgiveness works. Forgiveness buries sin in the ground, as dead as Jacob their father, as dead as a crucified Christ. Forgiveness puts sin to death. And sin can't be resurrected from the grave. Only Christ can do that, only the one with authority over sin and death and the devil can roll away the stone of the tomb. So when forgiveness is spoken over us, let us hear it with gladness and rejoice that it can't be taken away. And when we doubt and are convinced that forgiveness works like a good-works transaction, let us hear that word of forgiveness spoken again, and again, and again. *Christ, forgive us our trespasses, both today and always. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-20—The Festival of St. Peter and St. Paul**

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." That is Peter talking there. He is the one to make that confession. But it isn't his confession. Paul takes up this mantle, this confession of faith, and spreads it further than Peter could have ever dreamed. He sets up congregations and pastors and proclaims the mysteries of the kingdom of God. But this confession isn't his either. This confession, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the confession of the Church. It is given to the Church by the Father. It is His confession, "This is My Son. Listen to Him." Those words the Father thundered at the Jordan. So this confession of Peter and Paul, this confession of the Church, this confession made known only by the Father, is our confession too. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. *Father, make Peter's confession our confession. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12—Good Fasting vs. Evil Fasting**

Earlier in chapter 58, Isaiah lays out why the Lord is disgusted by the fasting of His people. They have turned fasting into a work. And more than that, they use their fasting as an opportunity to do evil against their neighbor. The Lord abhors this type of fasting. He detests any and all of our manmade good works. Instead, He would like the fasting of sacrifice and service. He wants to see a fasting that focuses on love for the other instead of love for the self. And all of this, of course, is found in Christ alone. He does what is required of us because what has been required of us has been left undone. Because of Christ, we get credit for things we have never done, but He, of course, has done. Our fast is broken. We eat and are satisfied. For Christ has fasted enough for us all. *Gracious God, may our desire be for the gifts of our Lord and the good of our neighbor. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:14-21—Doing the Impossible**

Again we read a piece of Scripture that is only fulfilled in Christ. That is not to say that Paul does not write this for us, as a good Law that may be placed in front of us to fulfill and emulate. But we must also realize that the bar that he sets is far too high for us to clear. That, and the simple fact that Jesus did as much when He proclaimed from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The marks of the Christian are the impossible things of love for our enemy. But they are the mark that we ought to bear because they are the marks that we see in the hands and feet and brow of our crucified Savior. The same sort of marks should be upon our flesh. Not marks for salvation, of course, but marks of service and love for our neighbor, even our enemy. *Christ Jesus, let us not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56—The Feast of the Visitation**

John the Baptist leaps inside the womb of his mother. It is a real leap, a joyful leap. It is the leap of faith, infant faith, not-even-born-yet-fetus-still-in-the-belly faith. Elizabeth has faith too: faith in a promise kept and fulfilled. Her child will be the frontrunner. Mary's child will be the Savior. Her child shall make straight the paths and Mary's will walk those paths all the way to the cross. And Mary certainly has faith as well. She sings a song of praise, a song of faith. For the Lord lifts up the weak and puts down the strong. He raises up the humble and fills the hungry with good things. He keeps the promise made to Abraham by fulfilling it in the fruit of her womb. All these wonderful workings of our God are given to generation after generation, purely by grace and mercy. Thanks be to God. *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 (Dalet)—Life From the Dust**

*Holy Father, there is no life without You, for apart from You my soul is covered by dust of death, of brittle bones broken and blown. In my groaning may my heart be upon You and Your wondrous works of salvation. Even as I sit in dust and ashes, teach me Your ways, Your commands, Your precepts. For without You, without Your Word of salvation, my soul will be swallowed by sorrow. My desire is for the things of death, the things of evil, the things that are not of You. Cast all of these things far away from me, for they bring me no real pleasure. Instead, may my delight be in You and in Your Law. Clinging to Your testimonies, may Your rules always be set before me. Grant that I may be in the way of faithfulness so that I may not be put to shame. May Your commandments always lead my path, for You set my heart free. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org/support](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org/support)

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [office@hopeaurora.org](mailto:office@hopeaurora.org). 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](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor Eli Lietzau**. He is pastor at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. He is married to his beautiful wife, Joy, and has four wonderful children.