

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Wisdom 1:7; Psalm 68:1, 3, 4, 11, 33, 35**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alle- | luia.*

Let the righ- | teous be glad;
let them rejoice be- | fore God;*
yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Alle- | luia.
Let God arise, let His enemies be | scattered; *
let those also who hate Him flee be- | fore Him.
Sing to God, sing praises | to His name;*
extol Him who rides | on the clouds.
The Lord | gave the Word;*
great was the company of those who pro- | claimed it.
He sends out His voice, a | mighty voice.*
The God of Israel gives strength and power to His | people.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 14:21**

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God our merciful Father, who taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit, bring us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!

TLH 224, LSB 497
Martin Luther



1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
Be all Thy graces now out poured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of every land and every tongue;
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine
Oh, cause the Word of Life to shine!
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From every error keep us free;

Let none but Christ our Master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,
Grant us the will Thy work to do
And in Thy service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to Thee, our Lord,
ascend.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



“The Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church”

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 Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church

The Holy Spirit acts in and through the word of God. That is the promise of the Lord Jesus. As we attend to the Holy Scriptures this week, pray that the Holy Spirit would bear witness of the Son and His righteousness, that you would be strengthened in your vocation, and that you would strive against sin to live a holy life befitting a Christian. God be praised, we have an advocate who testifies to a holiness that is not of our own but is given to us by faith in Christ Jesus that we would walk in newness of life.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: John 14:23-31 The Trouble with Keeping

I was in a Bible store the other day and got to chatting with the owner about Bible translations. In the course of our conversation, he said, "The translation really doesn't matter, just as long as you read it and do it." His comment demonstrates well the difficulty we have with the word of Jesus, "if anyone loves me, he will keep my word." "Keep" in English has a deep legal sense, as in keeping the commandments. But "keep" here really means "treasure" as you would keep a baby or a picture of a loved one. And there you have all the difference. Yes, keep the words of the Law, do them, and at the same time treasure the words of Jesus who justifies us apart from our keeping of the law. *Lord God, grant that I would hold fast the word of Jesus and treasure them. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 68 A Psalm of the Power of Christ

David here preaches the coming power of the resurrected and ascended Christ. Those in Christ escape from death, the downtrodden are comforted, the rebellious are cast from His presence, and song bursts forth in praise of the God of Israel. This is all proper to Christ's kingdom. And how fervently we should pray this psalm! For as yet we do not see the downtrodden lifted up, the enemies of the gospel put down, or the solitary set-in families, at least with our eyes. We pray fervently that God's kingdom would come among us in the preaching of God's word that we shall see with our eyes that for which we have now by faith – the reign of our risen and ascended Lord Jesus. *Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:7-11 The Prayer Killer

Willful sin, which brings with it a bad conscience, is a murderer of faith and prayer. This is why Peter exhorts us to be "self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." It becomes nearly impossible to pray or to have devotion to the Word when your conscience is afraid. You turn inward, looking to yourself and your wants and desires, and by your sin cast aside the fellowship with God and His provision. Christians are to be watchful and awake, "for the end of all things is at hand." We are to use the gifts we have for the good of others, that God may be glorified in us. Sin just leads to a bad conscience. If you have sinned, repent and trust in the forgiveness of Christ, and embrace the good life He has given you. *Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:28-32 The Spirit Brings Faith

The things which the prophet Joel preaches have come to pass at Pentecost. The Spirit is poured out on His Church that she would go into all the world and proclaim the good news, that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1), and that "all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (v. 32). And this is indeed good news! For the Spirit here plainly says that salvation is a free gift, that the faith which the Spirit has worked in men will cause them to call upon the Lord, that He would deliver them from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation by His lovingkindness in Jesus. Take hold of this and say amen to it. *O Holy Spirit, pour out Your graces to me that I would call upon the Name of Jesus and thus be saved. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-21 The Spirit of Comfort

You cannot love Jesus without loving the things which He has taught. Full stop. The one who loves Jesus loves His commandments, which are His teachings, His instruction. The Christian keeps them, treasures them, for through them the Holy Spirit reveals the very gospel - the forgiveness of sins. This is why the Spirit is called the "Helper" or more literally the "Comforter." Those who despise God's word and preaching do so to their peril, for then they refuse the comfort and help of the forgiveness of sins and the fellowship of the Lord Jesus. But those who treasure His words, they dwell in Jesus, and Jesus in them, even as Jesus dwells in the Father. *Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in Your word. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:7-16 Grab Your Pen!

Unless you happen to be reading the King James Bible, you need a pen right now. In verse 11, add a comma after the word "saints." It should read "and He himself gave...some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." This comma is an important one. Ministry does not belong to all as if everyone had a particular kind of ministry, but is a gift from God in the Office of the Holy Ministry, namely, your pastor. Christians are called to love and various kinds of service, but with that said, do not take away from God's precious gift to you in the Pastoral Office. Read verses 7-16 again and give God thanks for His benefits to you. *Father, thank You for my pastor. Strengthen him by Your word. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 145 Pass Down the Faith

"One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts." (v. 4). God's mighty works beg to be taught to others, especially to our children and grandchildren. The passing on of the faith from one generation to another is the solemn duty of all Christian parents. Why? One, because God has commanded it. Two, because it is a joy to tell your children that they are forgiven and redeemed in Christ. And three, because your children, unlike anything else in this life, you CAN take to heaven with you. Everything else will fade, but your children are little bundles of eternity. Act accordingly. *Lord Jesus, help me to tell my children of Your saving love. Amen.*

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