

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 **Psalm 104:30**
“When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.”

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, as-
cend.
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 risen Lord Jesus has ascended on high and sits at the right hand of the Father. Although His work of salvation is complete, He continues to serve as our Great High Priest before His Father and keeps His promise to abide with His Church so that we are not left as orphans. The festival of Pentecost was just the beginning of the Holy Spirit's sending and working for us as our Lord promised. The Holy Spirit comes to us and is at work for us through the reading and preaching of God's Word, Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Holy Absolution.

In this way, Our Lord continues to daily and richly forgive sins, sanctify and keep His Church.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:23-31 The Work of the Holy Spirit**

Our Lord's words and teaching in this text overflow with promise and comfort. It would be impossible to know and love Jesus, or live in Him without the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants His disciples to be certain of His Father's love for them. He sent the Holy Spirit so that He and His Son might abide in you. The Spirit teaches you Christ's Word and strengthens you in faith. He protects and defends you from the assaults of the devil, the world, and your own sinful flesh. The Father does all this for you, His beloved child, because of His Son and through His Spirit that you might have life eternal and a peace the world can never ever give. *Thank You, O Lord, for sending the Holy Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify me and Your whole church. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 48 Jesus is God's Temple and our Strong Fortress**

Psalms 48 is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for Yahweh's presence in Zion's temple which made Jerusalem "the city of our God" (v. 8). Even though Yahweh would let the temple be destroyed and Jerusalem led into exile for her sin, Yahweh remained a saving fortress for all who would repent and take refuge in Him. Our God does not simply dwell in temples made by human hands. His presence on earth is not in a building, but in a person: Jesus Christ. He built His Church on the confession of Saint Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" and promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:16, 18). *Lord Jesus, You are our strong fortress forever and in You nothing can prevail against us. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 4:7-11 e Living in Christ and Loving our Neighbor**

Our Lord Jesus did not say, "apart from me you can do some things." No! He said, "apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5). He also promised to send the "Helper, the Holy Spirit" to teach us and guide us in all truth, to be with us as we abide in Him and He in us (Jn. 14:16, 26). United to Christ Jesus in Holy Baptism, He guides us in His love and truth and works through the various gifts He gives each of us to love and serve our neighbor. Because no one can do this by their own strength, Christ Jesus supplies us His strength through His Word and Sacraments "that in everything God may be glorified" (v. 11). *Lord Jesus, as I remember my baptism daily, help me to die and rise with You that You may be glorified in all that I say and do. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Joel 2:28-32 Joel's Prophecy Fulfilled at Pentecost**

Moses prayed for it, Joel prophesied it, Jesus promised it and God fulfilled the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Spirit of God had always dwelt with and in God's people. No saving faith was ever possible without the Holy Spirit. David prays for Yahweh not to take His Holy Spirit from him (Ps. 51:11). But now at Pentecost, as Joel prophesied, the Spirit of God comes to dwell in a fuller and more permanent way with all of God's people (Acts 2:17-22, 33). Not all are apostles, prophets, or teachers (1 Cor. 12:27-31), but all are one in Christ Jesus and have been given the full measure of the Spirit. In this way, all of God's people are prophets with a small p, proclaiming the good news of Christ. *Thank You, Lord for giving us Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:15-21 Jesus Lives in and Loves through You**

"If you love me, you would take out the trash" is something we might expect to hear from a parent or spouse, but not Jesus. And yet, Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (v.15). Contrary to how this sounds, Jesus is not putting us back under the law or making His love conditional. Knowing Jesus, loving Jesus and keeping His commands go together in a natural, holistic, organic way, even as a fruit tree produces fruit and a cow produces milk. Connected to Jesus in Holy Baptism, He abides in us and we in Him. As branches connected to the Vine, His love flows into us and through us so that we love Him and keep His commands (Jn. 15:5). *Thank You, Lord for loving me completely and unconditionally that I may love You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 4:7-16 Christ Gives His Gifts**

The crucified and risen Jesus led God's people out of slavery by winning victory over the devil and the grave, thus destroying man's captivity to sin and death. Ascended on high, Christ gifts His Church with the fivefold office of the ministry. Through this office Christ remains present and active throughout as He is the head that holds all things together (vv. 15-16). For the benefit of His Church, Christ gives this office "to equip the saints," "for the work of ministry," and "for the building up of the body of Christ" (v.12). *Lord, continue to build up Your Church through the gifts You give. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 145 Redeemed in Christ to Live under Him in His Kingdom**

Most of us recognize Psalms 145:15-16 as the opening words of the meal prayer, "Asking a Blessing," in *Luther's Small Catechism*. These words are appropriate as we give thanks to God for His gracious and abundant providential care for us and all creation. And yet, this hymn of praise extends far beyond God's first article gifts as it anticipates the "mighty acts" and "awesome deeds" of Christ Jesus. It is He who is righteous in all His ways, kind in all His works, near to all who call on Him, and saves us by His "mighty deeds" (vv. 11, 17-19). He has redeemed us and brought us into His "everlasting kingdom" to live under His "dominion" that "endures throughout all generations" (v.13). *Thank You, O Lord for Your steadfast love in Christ. Amen.*

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 Shawn Nettleton**. He is the Pastor of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. He and his beautiful bride Wendy have been blessed with three amazing children; Emily, Katelyn and Micah.