

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 55:16-18, 22, 1, 4-5, 17, 16**

As for me, I will call upon God, and He shall / hear my voice.\*  
He has redeemed my / soul in peace.  
Cast your burden / on the Lord,\*  
and He shall sus- / tain you.  
Give ear to my / prayer, O God,\*  
and do not hide Yourself from my suppli- / cation.  
My heart is severely pained with- / in me,\*  
and the terrors of death have fallen up- / on me.  
Fearfulness and trembling have come up- / on me,\*  
and horror has over- / whelmed me.  
I will pray, and / cry aloud,\*  
and the Lord shall / save me.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Psalm 119:77**

Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, as You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

TLH 1, LSB 901  
Benjamin Schmolck



1. Open now Thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
Where my soul in joyful duty  
Waits for Him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
Filled with solace, light, and grace!  
2. Lord, my God, I come before Thee,  
Come Thou also unto me;  
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,  
There a heaven on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter Thou,  
Let it be Thy temple now!

3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,  
Here Thy seed is duly sown;  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be  
Fruitful unto life in me.  
4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
Let me keep Thy gift divine,  
Howso'er temptations thicken;  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life,  
As my comfort in my strife.



**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 August 20-26, 2017

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Worship of God Wrought by the Spirit

To worship God is to come into His presence and receive the gifts that He bestows. The response to those gifts is to acknowledge where they have come from, thank Him for what He gives, sing His Word back to Him, and pray. Man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3) so we find our life in the hearing of God's Word. Worship should be the pinnacle of our days and weeks because we are receiving the gifts that give life. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and receive all that the Lord loves to give.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:41-48 Preparing for the Visit

People will go to great lengths to prepare their home for someone's impending visit. The nooks and crannies get dusted and all the things get picked up so the house looks presentable. Jesus weeps that many of the people of Jerusalem were not ready for the visit of the Son of God. John the Baptist had prepared people for the visit of Jesus by preaching God's Word and not all would listen. Jesus had come to Jerusalem to lay down His life for the sheep and He comes to you today with His Word so that His sacrifice is applied to you. The Lord has come to visit you so be ready to hear His Word of kindness and mercy.

*Dear Spirit, open my ears to hear the Word of the Lord. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:73-80 Given Understanding

As we listen to the Word of God, the gift of understanding is a way that God blesses us. As we are attentive to listening, the Holy Spirit opens our mind to understand what God has to say. At least partially, worship is an intellectual exercise. God uses language to communicate. Thus, to worship is to understand the language He uses and thereby be edified by it as His mercy comes to us. We use language in turn to pray, praise, and give thanks. *Merciful Lord, give me understanding so that I may sing Your praises. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Spirit Driven Worship

You may be tempted to think that God needs you to worship Him and to worship God is a work that begins with you. The reading today shows that the Spirit is what causes you to be able to say, "Jesus is Lord." You can say this because you have faith in Jesus Christ. In addition, this faith will drive you to receive the gifts of God in worship. God doesn't need your worship; you need the gifts he bestows on you in worship. Driven by the Holy Spirit, you come into the presence of God and have all that you need from His gracious hand. *Holy Spirit, open my mouth to confess the name of Jesus. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 7:1-7 The Building! The Building!

For a congregation with a large sanctuary and facility there is a temptation among the people to idolize the building and put too great of an emphasis on it. For congregations with a small sanctuary and very little in the way of permanent facilities there is a temptation to covet what they don't have and just assume that building a structure will cause people to come to church. Jeremiah speaks against the people and tells them that trust in buildings (the temple of the Lord) is sinful. Trust in the Lord not the work of your hands. It is the body of Jesus, turn down on the cross and built up three days later, that gives us the confidence of God's love. *Lord, thank You for the place where I receive Your bountiful gifts. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-30 Confessing Jesus

Today the church remembers Bartholomew (also called Nathaniel), one of the twelve disciples. Upon meeting Jesus, Bartholomew called Jesus the Son of God, the King of Israel. One aspect of worship is to confess what you believe. As we say the Creeds in church we join Bartholomew and tell God and others what we believe about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One reason we do this in worship is so that we will be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within us when the time comes. *Father, thank You for Bartholomew and his faithful confession; give me lips that confess You as well. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 3:7-15 Mutual Exhortation

The Christian is placed into a community of believers in the local congregation. In this small assembly of believers there is a glimpse given of the gathering of all God's Saints in the resurrection on the Last Day. The community of believers gathers together for worship. Also, in knowing one another you have the opportunity to exhort one another. This means to encourage each other in faith, to guide others away from the deceitfulness of sin and the hardening of heart to bless one another, and to rejoice together in the love of Christ. *Holy Spirit, let me be encouraged and strengthened in faith by the words of my fellow believers. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143 Fleeing to the Lord

The Psalmist David says that he has fled "to the Lord for refuge." The Lord is your refuge in time of trouble and when sin and the devil assail you. You flee to Him, and find Him in His Word and in the Sacrament of the Altar. In Him you find protection and sanctuary. He delivers you from your enemies and is the mighty fortress that surrounds you. Tomorrow as you attend church, be reminded that the Lord surrounds you and gives you the safety of His love. *Lord, I flee to You for refuge, deliver me from my enemies. Amen.*

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