

“The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:1, 7, 9, 11-12, 14**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry / with my voice!*
 Have mercy also upon me, and / answer me.
 You have / been my help;*
 do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my sal- / vation.
 The Lord is my light and my sal- / vation;*
 whom / shall I fear?
 Teach me Your / way, O Lord,*
 and lead me in a / smooth path.
 Do not deliver me to the will of my adver- / saries;*
 for false witnesses have risen a- / gainst me.
 Wait on the Lord; be of good / courage,*
 and He shall streng- / then your heart.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **1 Peter 2:10**

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, who has prepared for those that love You such good things as pass man’s understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

TLH 231, LSB 768
 Martin Luther



1. We now implore the Holy Ghost
 For the true faith, which we need
 the most,
 That in our last moments He may
 befriend us
 And, as homeward we journey,
 attend us.
 Lord, have mercy!

4. Thou highest Comfort in every need,
 Grant that neither shame nor death
 we heed,
 That e’en then our courage may never
 fail us
 When the Foe shall accuse and
 assail us.
 Lord, have mercy!

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 Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit

Enthusiasm is thinking the Spirit is given “apart from and before contact with the Word,” Martin Luther tells us (SA III, 8). With the ‘Spirit’ we’re tempted to “twist the Scripture or oral Word” in whatever way we wish. God’s Word is measured and interpreted according to an arbitrary standard in ourselves. Though we get God to say things we find pleasing, we lose Christ crucified for sinners and his grace distributed through the Word and Sacraments. Enthusiasm gives false security, and far more often, despair. Look to where God promises to be found. He daily and richly forgives you all your sins and sustains you unto life everlasting.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 Focus on Jesus, not the Fish

Jesus is in the boat. Focus on Him, not on your apprehension of being made to work. Don’t be afraid of His call into the kingdom of heaven and His call to labor among men in this world. Yes, the boat looks like it’s sinking. The nets are always ripping. The devil keeps our eyes on what *appears* to be failing. Schism and fear run more voters meetings than we want to admit. Mindful of our problems, we feel abandoned and alone. But Jesus is in the boat. He has built His ark, His church, upon His atoning sacrifice and captains it by His Word. *Stay with us Lord, for it is dark and too much is going wrong. Comfort us with Your presence and sustain us in hope and life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, fifth part (HE v33-40) Turn My Eyes to You

Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. My works are worthless when I place them as evidence of my righteousness before God’s throne. Turn my eyes toward life in Your ways. That is the cross. That’s Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. By His atoning death He gives me my worth. He purchased and won me with His holy and precious blood. The Law is good. It robs me of my self-justifications. It leads me to the Gospel. I cannot fulfill my own reconciliation. Jesus does it. His resurrection confirms the promise made on His cross. Righteousness. Life. Hope. *O LORD, fix my eyes on the cross of Christ and not my works that I would boast in the resurrection, which cannot fade. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 A Specific Jesus

Good works are easier in ambiguity. Be kind. To general neighbors, not specific ones. That makes ambiguous good works about me, not my neighbor. Peter writes about specific neighbors even if they are not named. Look at the neighbors God has given you, your parents, children, spouse, and boss, because God loves them too, even when you think they’re your enemies. You might suffer for it, but it’s not about you. It is about Jesus for us all. Love for those who hate us rests on Christ’s death for them. Point to it specifically when they ask about your love and hope. General good works cannot save, but a specific Jesus already has. *O Lord, help us to see our neighbors as gifts, that we would find Your love for them, and so love them too. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 16:14-21 The Lord Gathers the Scattered

The Lord hunts sinners. He wants to gather the ones scattered by their sins. Even when we blind ourselves to the damage our sin does, He sees. Look how terrible we have made things. But the Lord repaid them for their sins double. Christ bore their sins on the cross and heaps up a double portion of mercy. The Lord is our stronghold. Not because we have earned it, but because He has mercy on sinners. The day has come. The Lord who was dead lives. He has brought us back to the promise He made to our fathers. *O Lord, seek out those scattered by sin and restore them to hope even as You gather them to Your side. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-26 Which Jesus?

Who do people say that I am? The “self-help” coach? The example of what you could be, but aren’t? The one who makes you feel ashamed every time you enter his house? The God who only deals in Law? Peter’s answer is not from flesh and blood. You are the Christ. You are the one sent to fulfill the Law, forgive the guilt I carry, and give sinners sonship in heaven by repentance and faith. You are the Son of the Living God who came to die that I would live. You are the God of the Gospel. *O LORD, grant us comfort in the Gospel through Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, that we may have peace in Your name. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 First Comes the Cornerstone

Before anything else, the cornerstone is laid. The building crumbles without it. We offer spiritual sacrifices that are only acceptable through Jesus. Through Him, we are the ones who have received mercy. Measure the mercy, not the quantity of your sacrifices. Measure the cornerstone, not the size of the house according to your eyes of flesh. See Jesus. See the cross. Though we disobey the Word and stumble, the Lord saves us before we shatter. By faith, we look to the right thing for peace and stability: Jesus. He calls us out of darkness and into light. *O LORD, root us in Yourself, that all we build would be upon the salvation won in Christ which sustains and brings us out of darkness into light through Your mercy. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 113 “Praise the Lord” Isn’t About You

It says something about us that we think “Praise the Lord” requires a focus on ourselves and our gratitude instead of growing out of thanksgiving for God’s works. “We love you so much, Lord. You make us feel great. We worship you.” Stop. The Psalmist gets it right. Praise the Lord because of who He is, because of what He has done apart from our works, worthiness, and choice. Right praise comes from receiving God’s undeserved mercy by faith. It is denying yourself and finding your value in the price Jesus paid for you. He died and rose to save you. *Lord, show us Your works which are wonderful when we would look to our own which are tarnished by sin. Fill us with Joy in Your presence and works for our good. Amen.*

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