

“The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected by the Spirit”



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 **Luke 6:36**
 “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

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 Schirmer



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.

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 are reminded of all it means when Jesus tells us to be merciful. We are reminded that His mercy takes away our sins and makes us perfect. His mercy warrants our praise. And His mercy moves us to show mercy to others. We show this mercy not in simple empty works, but by showing true love first to our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as to the neighbor that God has given us to serve.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:36-42 – Mercy Received Becomes Mercy Given

Have you ever seen a Scripture verse so often and misused so often that you almost disregard it entirely? This text is certainly a candidate for that treatment! Nonetheless, these are the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. The judgment that our Lord is forbidding us from engaging in is the judgment of a person's salvation. We must be wise and recognize evil in our world and evil in actions. But we ought not be about telling people that they are condemned. Rather, as disciples of Jesus, we speak about the mercy that is available to all in Christ Jesus and the wonderful gift that is. *Dear merciful Lord, please help me to speak of Your mercy and to be merciful as You have shown me mercy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 – The Lord Faithfully Teaches

All the Psalmist desires comes only as the result of God's work. There is beautiful. The Psalmist devotes himself to God's Law but pleads that God would teach him the Law and the commands. I am reminded of the man who said to Jesus, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!" We saw yesterday that we have a merciful God. We ought not think that we must have our lives in perfect order to be worthy of God. We throw ourselves at His feet, and in His mercy and His love He does teach us. He cares for us and feeds us. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us all that He requires of us. *Merciful Lord, my soul melts in sorrow of my sins and my failings. Thank You for Your forgiveness. Please give me Your mercy that I may trust in You for my life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 – Pain Will Pass to Glory

I have often been told that getting old is not for the faint of heart. The aches, pains, and ailments that set in as our bodies age can be difficult to bear. Though I have never given birth, I have been in the room when it was happening and seen the pain. In the same way, the whole of creation groans with us. Not under the suffering of physical ailment, but under the weight of sin. We all ache for the day when all is set right. In Christ we know that life without groaning awaits us. This life is ours already, but we will see it and have it in fullness when our Lord returns. Until then, we wait in eager expectation. *Merciful Lord, through faith I know that You have forgiven my sins. Keep me in this faith until the day of Your glorious appearing. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 – Mercy is More Than Money

Our Lord Jesus Christ has broken our yokes of slavery to sin. He has given us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. In this text, we see the call for His people to respond to His mercy by showing mercy to those around them, particularly the poor. This is something that can look different for different Christians. Those in a city can roll down their window at an intersection and give money to someone. Those in a small town can assist local organizations to help the needy. But notice that in this text we are called to do more than throw money at people. True mercy is shown in actually caring for people. God didn't throw money at us, but truly shows us mercy and care. *Merciful Lord, please help me to show Your mercy to those neighbors that You have given me who need aid. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 – Love Perfected

Jesus shows us today how merciful we should be. How much should we love our neighbor? We should be perfect. What an impossible standard Jesus set for us! We know this to be impossible and yet Jesus speaks this way. Why? Because He wants us to see the value and the importance of showing true love to our neighbors, including especially those who are hard to love. There are those in our lives that are almost impossible to love. But then we remember what kind of love Jesus has for us His sacrificial love set us to try one more time to love our neighbor. Our love comes as a response to what Jesus has done for us first. *Loving Lord, I want to show Your love to the world. Help me to see the love You have given me that I may show it to others in word and deed. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-17 – Mercy in Patience

We all have that one friend or person at church: the one who just doesn't quite have it together. You've done things for them again and again. You've shown them how to do it and still they can't figure it out. Exhausting, right? But St. Paul reminds us the importance of bearing with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We ought not stand in judgment, but patiently show them mercy and continue to walk with them as we walk together in the light of Christ. We are called to focus on Him rather than the shortcomings of each other. *Merciful Lord, You have shown me such great patience in my own sinfulness. Please help me show patient mercy to those who have also been called into Your Church that we may walk together in love. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92 – We Rejoice at God's Merciful Works

Note the occasion for this Psalm: the Sabbath. It was meant to be sung in the context of Israel's worship. And why did they worship? Why did they raise voices in praise? Because of what God had done! Because of His great works of mercy, steadfast love, and faithfulness. For these things, God's people rejoice. We continue to rejoice even though we see our enemies succeed in this life. We know that we are planted in God's kingdom. No matter what happens in this life, we will stand with the Lord of Life on the Last Day. What better reason is there than this to rejoice in His mercy shown to us and to gather together with His people to worship? *Merciful Lord, Your steadfast love for me brings me great joy and comfort. Grant that I may join with Your people to worship You again and again throughout my life. Amen.*

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