

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 **Psalm 119: 33-34**
“Teach me, O Lord . . . Give me understanding.”

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



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| <p>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!</p> | <p>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!</p> |
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“The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit”

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

Baptized into His Name most Holy we are made children of God and receive God's Holy Spirit. Our journey as disciples of Christ Jesus, initiated by water and the Word, continues our whole life through. The Holy Spirit shapes us and forms us as we encounter our Lord in the Word and are taught, in turn, all that He commanded His disciples. As Scripture lights our path, we are led by the Holy Spirit, on the Way that leads unto life everlasting. We thank God for His continual guidance, for without it we would be entirely lost. We pray that He would continue to preserve and perfect us as we encounter Him in the Word, by the power of His Spirit.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 "At Your word I will let down the nets."

Simon Peter was a skilled fisherman. It's what he did for a living. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus offers the seasoned fisherman a word of advice, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets." We know what Peter was likely thinking: "Jesus, this is my realm. I know what I'm doing, but because I respect you I'll give it a try." We think the same way. We go about our necessary business believing that the weight of our well-being rests entirely on our shoulders. What does God have to do with my day to day matters? The haul of fish was extraordinary! Our God is near. He shapes and forms us and makes us His own through even the ordinary tasks of life. *Lord, forgive me when I fail to recognize Your work in my life that I may live in service to You. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:33-40 "Teach me, O Lord . . . Give me understanding."

"Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways." We are tempted and drawn to worthless things. We ceaselessly look to be entertained by a screen of some sort. Our eyes are flooded with information from countless sources. What's a disciple to do? Look to the Lord. Pray along with the psalmist, "Teach me, O Lord, give me understanding, lead me, incline my heart, turn my eyes, and confirm to Your servant Your promise that You may be feared." Focus on the promise of God: salvation through Christ crucified. His way is life. Through His righteousness we receive eternal life. *Lord, preserve me from the distractions of the world and my selfish desire and perfect me in Your way which leads unto life everlasting. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 "Do not repay evil for evil."

At the conclusion of a court trial for a heinous crime, following the sentence, the judge often allows those who were transgressed the opportunity to address the perpetrator. From time to time, there are powerful words of forgiveness delivered in these tense addresses. Many often wonder how someone can be so forgiving. As disciples of Christ, this is exactly what we are called to do. "Do not repay evil for evil, but bless, that you may obtain a blessing." When we stood convicted, our heavenly Father forgave us. We received a blessing on account of Jesus. Having been blessed through the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are called to bless others. *Lord, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, allow me to bless others, as You have blessed me. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 16:14-21 "To You shall the nations come."

God does not turn a blind eye to those who stray from Him, to those who worship detestable idols. Our sin, our wandering ways, our iniquities, are not concealed from the eyes of God. Our works have earned us death. Yet, our God is a God of mercy and restoration. He opens our eyes that we might see and recognize our idolatry and wandering ways. More than this, He sent His Son to pay the penalty of our sin and the sin of every nation. So we, with Jeremiah can look forward to the Day when all will know the grace of God in Christ Jesus, "O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to You shall the nations come from the end of the earth." *Lord, draw us unto Yourself that we may know Your salvation. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-26 "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Peter got it right. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." These words did not come naturally to Peter. They were given by the Father who is in heaven. Peter, soon after, falls back into the "things of man" and is rebuked for attempting to stand between Christ and the cross. Still today, we have a hard time understanding the role of suffering and death. Our Lord approached the cross in bold confidence. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered death and offers the spoils—forgiveness of sins and life everlasting—to all who deny the "things of man" and follow Him. The strength to follow does not come naturally. *Father in heaven, grant me the wisdom and courage to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow Jesus, the Lord of Life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 "So the honor is for you who believe."

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light . . . once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." Wow! Do these amazing words of identity apply to me? Am I a part of this "holy nation?" Indeed you are! According to the great mercy of God the Father, He has caused us to be born again—that is baptized, born from above of water and the Spirit—to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). *Merciful Father, may Your Holy Spirit open my lips that others may know Your excellencies and enter into Your marvelous light through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50 "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Today we remember St. Mary Magdalene, who, according to our Lord, had many sins. She was acutely aware of her sin and her great need for a Savior. Finding herself at the feet of Jesus, she washed His feet with tears of contrition and repentance. Her faith in the mercy of Christ Jesus set her free: "Your sins are forgiven." Her love was great because she was shown great mercy. Her faith impacted her life as she continued to follow Jesus. Today *"we sing Your praise for Mary, who came at Easter dawn to look for Jesus' body and found her Lord was gone. But, as with joy she saw Him in resurrection light, may we by faith behold Him, the Day who ends our night!" (LSB 855 v.11)*