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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SAY THE APOSTLES’ CRED
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.

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 July 16-22, 2017

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.

**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.

**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 recognized, born from above of water and the Spirit great mercy of God the Father, He has caused us to be born again—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.

**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.

**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)

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