

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 **Luke 7:48**
And He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

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!



"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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 21-27, 2019

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit

Over and over, it is man's desire to focus on himself and his surroundings to measure the presence of God. Are things going well? Do I feel good? Am I behaving? We measure God in ourselves instead of where He has promised to be: with us sinners. He is on the cross, and delivered in Word and Sacrament. When we look to ourselves to measure our God, at best we find false security, and far more often, despair. Look to where God has promised to be found and see that He dailily and richly forgives you all your sins and sustains you in life and hope unto life everlasting.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 Jesus is in the Boat.

The point of the story isn't that you are fishers of men with burdens and tasks and nets to fix. It's that Jesus is in the boat, so it's going to be ok. The boat is sinking. The nets are ripping. The church is tossed around violently, and threatened by lies from every direction. Usually because we're not sure we trust God to do His job. But Jesus is in the boat. He joins us in this church full of these sinners to die and rise that many would be gathered in.

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: Luke 7:36-50 Her Sins are Forgiven.

Everyone but Jesus seems to be uncomfortable when the sinful woman weeps before the Lord and kisses His feet. I'm not sure her sins were more numerous than anyone else's in the room even if they were more obvious. Jesus doesn't flinch at them. Not yet. He'll do that on the cross for her and for the rest of them too. So they can look at each other in light of the crucifix. These are sinners Jesus died for. We don't need their history, but His salvation. Her sins, which are many, are forgiven. She loves as she was loved.

O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your cross that we would know the measure of mercy given to sinners. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 Specific Neighbors Don't Need General Good Works.

It's easier to think about good works in concept. General neighbors, not specific ones. Without specific neighbors in mind, good works are about me. Peter writes about specific neighbors even if they're not named. Look at the neighbors God has given us as if God loves them too. Even your enemies. You might suffer for it. It's still not about you. It's about Jesus for us all. Love for those who hate us rests on Christ's death for them. This is our hope too. Point to it. Specifically. Because general good works can't 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 Hunts Sinners

The Lord hunts sinners. He wants to gather the scattered. He scattered them. Their sins broke stuff. Even when we blind ourselves to the damage our sin does, He sees. Look how terrible we've 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've 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 20:20-28 Authority is a Burden

"Jesus, let us sit in the honorable seat on your right hand and on your left. We can handle it!" They didn't realize those seats were reserved. Thieves hung on either side when God's kingdom was brought to us. The seats the twins wanted were crosses. The kingdom isn't what you think. It isn't where the powerful and famous go. It's where God brings help to sinners. Authority isn't about selfishness, but selflessness. Christ makes Himself servant to all on a cross. Authority is a burden. Bear it for your neighbor but know that Jesus already bears it for you. *Lord Jesus, You drank from the cup which we were not able. Let us ever see Your authority as a wonderful thing, that we would find You in service to the least of these. Us. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 We are who Jesus Makes Us.

We are who Jesus makes us. Before anything else, the cornerstone is laid. Without it, the building crumbles. We offer spiritual sacrifices that are only acceptable through Jesus. We are the ones who have now received mercy. Measure the mercy, not the sacrifice. Measure the cornerstone, not the size of the house. We all disobey the word and stumble. In faith, we look to the right thing for peace. Jesus. He calls us out of darkness and into light. *O LORD, root us in Yourself, that all that we build would be upon the salvation won in Christ, which will sustain and bring us out of darkness into light through Your mercy. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 113 Praise the Lord.

It says something about us that we think "Praise the Lord" requires a focus on ourselves and our gratitude instead of on 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." Why? Look at who He is. Look at what He's done. Right praise comes from looking to God, not yourself. This is not about you. This is about Jesus for you. Thanks be to God 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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