

“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 **Romans 14:7**
 “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.”

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 Shirmer



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 will begin by looking at the nature of living in the fallen world. Then, we will see not just the pain of sin this world, but also the joy that comes to us from and through Christ. This will culminate with the Lord's call to gather together with our brothers and sisters in the faith to receive the gifts of God distributed to us in the Divine Service.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:36-42 - Misquoting Jesus

These words by Jesus are often abused and misused in our day. Too easily we see these words as license to do what we want and then reject anyone who dares to correct us. Of course, we should know that we are misquoting Jesus to justify our favorite sins. If we read on, we see that Jesus desires His disciples to be spiritually formed and shaped by Him and His Word. We do not condemn because condemnation belongs to the Lord. We forgive because we have been forgiven much. Everything that we do must begin with our Master who teaches us. Our lives are guided by the Word of our Master. This is a great gift that we have been given. *O Lord, help me to always be mindful of the many gifts and mercies You have given me so that I may show the same love to my neighbor. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 - Faithfulness in Pain

Do you hear the words of pain and sorrow coming from the Psalmist's heart? We may feel the same in our own sufferings. We may feel like our souls cling to the dust or that we are melting because of our sorrow. In our despair, the devil tempts us to abandon the Lord. He has been mightily successful with this ploy. But rather than run from God in time of trouble, the Psalmist runs toward God. The Psalmist runs toward the goodness of God's mercies and seeks to abide by the Law. This is the model of faithfulness for us as well. We can hurt, but in our hurt, Christ gives us life according to His Word. *O Lord, You know my pains and my hurts. Please hold me steadfast in Your truth and comfort me with Your grace. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 - The Best is Yet to Come

The beauty of this text is that we are reminded that we are not alone in our suffering. The whole of creation groans alongside us. No matter what may ail us or why we suffer, we are not alone. And though we endure such trials in this life, we know that there is more for us. We are able to face these sufferings with courage because Christ has promised that we will see the full redemption of not just our souls, but also our bodies in the new creation. We are reminded here that God's blessings are more than just spiritual, but they are also physical blessings when our bodies are raised in incorruptibility. *O Lord, please give me courage to face these days that I may be in the faith now and eternally at the promised resurrection of the dead. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 - Living the Faith

This passage is challenging. Does God require us to do these things before He blesses us? Now, I know that for the properly catechized Lutheran, our knee-jerk reaction is to say, "Of course God's blessings aren't dependent upon us!" And you'd be correct, but read the text again. After we do the things listed in the first verses, then does God give His blessings. Understand that this is not talking about our salvation. It is talking about us living out the faith that we have been given. And when we are faithful, when we are doing what our Lord calls us to do, there are blessings from our master. It is good for us to live the faith and to serve our neighbor. Our Lord blesses such action by His people. *O Lord, please help me to see the value of my daily bread and help me to care for those whom You have given me to care for as well. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 - Being Perfect

Do you feel very perfect? As we see our own pain and we see the ways that we have failed to live up to God's standards, we realize that we are not perfect at all. And yet, Jesus tells us here to be perfect as His Father is perfect. What an impossible command! But we need to hear this because we see how much more God has done for us that we might do for Him or anyone else either. We are good to those who can be or are good to us back. But not our Lord. No, our Lord Jesus suffers and dies for sinners like us. He makes us perfect by His blood. Jesus Christ makes us perfect so that we can indeed love our neighbors in deed and in truth. *O Lord, thank You for Your many blessings to me and for making me Righteous in You. Bless me that I may share Your blessings with others. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-17 - Blessed are the Forgiven

This text shows us the culmination of our meditations for the week. Truly, our lawless deeds have been forgiven in Christ. This is often taught in Lutheran circles using the words "free gift." But what does that mean? It is used by non-Lutherans as well. Do we mean the same thing? No! This is not a gift that needs to be accepted by the power of our free will, as if God's grace depends on us. It is given without any need of our own will or desire to make it happen. This gift is received by faith, the faith that was worked in Baptism. Truly, God gives us all that He requires of us to have. Thanks be to God! *O Lord, be with me as I learn to live as Your forgiven child. Help me to be faithful and to live this new life that You have given me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92 - Lifting Our Voices in Praise

This week, as we have gone from examining our own sufferings to seeing the gracious goodness of Christ, the question becomes for us, what do we do? We have seen the call from God to live our lives in righteous service to our neighbors. And this is good. But our God is not finished with us. He calls you to gather with your brothers and sisters in the faith, fellow forgiven sinners through the blood of Christ. He calls you to come and be fed at His table. When we do that, when we attend the Divine Service, we lift our voices to God together with not just the living saints, but also those who have passed before us. This is a profound gift that the world will not understand, but we do not need them to. We can and should invite them to come and see, but we understand what we have been given in a way that the unbeliever cannot see. *O Lord, bless me that I may lift my voice in song. Enliven me in the morning to go to church with great gladness and lift my voice in praise. Amen.*

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