

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 25:16, 18, 1-2, 5, 15, 20**

Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- / cy on me,\*  
for I am desolate and af- / flicted.  
Look on my affliction / and my pain,\*  
and forgive / all my sins.  
To You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.\*  
O my God, I trust in You; Let me not / be ashamed.  
You are the God of my sal- / vation;\*  
on You I wait / all the day.  
My eyes are ever / toward the Lord,\*  
for He shall pluck my feet out / of the net.  
Keep my soul, and de- / liver me;\*  
let me not be ashamed, for I put my / trust in You.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **Luke 15:7**

“There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

**7** READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, the Protector of all that trust in You, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us Your mercy that, You being our Ruler and Guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

TLH 324, LSB 609  
Erdmann Neumeister



1. Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4. Come, ye sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept His invitation;  
Come, obey His gracious call,  
Come and take His free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

2. We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe--  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter Passion:  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.



“The Repentance 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 Repentance Wrought By the Spirit**

The “moral of the story” of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost sons, is no “moral” at all. It is the blessed Gospel: All of heaven rejoices at the repentance of sinners. To repent means “to change your mind.” It is not simply countering a bad deed with a good one. It means coming to a new conclusion. The first conclusion is that I am wrong, and God’s Word is right. The Law convicts of sin and works contrition. But the second conclusion is the surprise: that God is faithful and just to forgive sinners and cleanse them of their unrighteousness. He works by His Word to give us a new mind, a mind that thinks according to His Word—not simply knowing good from evil, but knowing that our conscience is clean through Christ Jesus. Repentance, as the parables show, is not a comeback worked by us; it is a rescue worked by God.

**SUN**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-10—The Joy of Heaven on Earth**

The cause of heavenly joy is not what the world finds impressive. The rescue of mankind through Christ is God’s greatest glory; thus, the repentance of a Christian—that constant, daily change of mind according to God’s thinking—is, therefore, the highest joy of God’s angels. Sinners dying is no amazing feat. Left to ourselves, we will wander off and be lost forever. The turning around of a hopeless cause is amazing, though. That is what only God can do and does do in Christ. Rejoice not in your goodness, but in Christ’s. *Lord, turn me from pride and wandering toward You in faith. Amen.*

**MON**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:17-24—Opening Up in Repentance**

If repentance is called a “rescue,” no wonder the prayer of a Christian must be, “open my eyes to behold Your Word.” The Word of God is closed to us unless the Holy Spirit takes hold of us through it. Repentance is a change wrought by God, not us. His Word rebukes us, corrects us, absolves us, and leads us into life, that is, the keeping of His Word. To change from a heart that loves its own counsels to a heart that delights in God’s counsel is a miracle indeed. *Lord, open my eyes to Your bountiful Word. Amen.*

**TUE**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-11—Humble Repentance Resists the Devil**

Repentance spells the end of pride. Instead of thinking that we must care for ourselves, faith trusts in God. It casts itself on Him, knowing that He cares for us. Thus, the watchfulness of repentance and faith is different than the bold watchfulness of worldly watchers. We resist the Devil not by our strength, but in our weakness, firm in our faith—that is, firm in Christ who cares for us. We wait on the Lord to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. We receive even sufferings as the humbling hand of God. Such is the change of mind of a Christian. *Lord, humble my pride and put my anxieties to rest in You. Amen.*

**WED**

**SCRIPTURE: Micah 7:18-20—Not Angry Forever**

The “change of mind” of repentance is learning to think about ourselves as God thinks of us in Christ. In the first place, to be sure, repentance includes contrition—recognizing that we stand as condemned sinners before Him. But the Lord does not delight in this, certainly not forever. To think rightly of our sins and ourselves, we must see them put away in Christ, who is God’s steadfast love incarnate. We begin to tread our sins down underfoot by the work of the Spirit’s renewal. But in Christ, they are cast down entirely, which we must believe.

*Lord, do not be angry forever, but have compassion. Amen.*

**THU**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32—Impenitence of Self-Righteousness**

There is no honor in sin, even if repentance is the joy of heaven. The prodigal is not “more saved” because of his rough past. God be praised the older son did not fall as he did. And yet, the conversation reveals his trust: not in the undeserved grace of his Father, but in his own self-righteousness. Prodigal living is impenitence, to be sure; but so is the older son’s attitude. Everyone must “come to their senses” and see that we are rescued by our Father’s grace. Repentance (and thus the joy of heaven) are to be ongoing this side of glory. *Lord, preserve me from self-righteous impenitence. Amen.*

**FRI**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-18—Dramatic Repentance**

It is difficult to see every Christian making the 180 degree change that St. Paul made. Not everyone goes from persecuting to preaching, all with the same zeal. Then again, perhaps we should learn from Paul’s case just how dramatic the Holy Spirit’s work of repentance, baptism, and faith really is to pull evil men into God’s service. We will recover the joy of the angels if we do. We will also have a great comfort that if Saul of Tarsus can become a preacher, we are not too hard for the Spirit to rescue also. *Lord, prepare me to suffer with joy for Your Name’s sake, both in repentance and in the cross. Amen.*

**SAT**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25—Prayers of Repentance**

Psalm 25 is a good remedy to the accusation that “the Church is full of hypocrites.” It is first and foremost a confession of our sins. But it is also a plea that the Lord would guide us, lead us, teach us, instruct us, correct us, and sanctify us. Those who wait for the Lord, endure suffering, and bear hatred are not to do so in their sins, but in integrity and uprightness. By no means can their uprightness or integrity overcome their guilt. The Lord must pardon our sin, because it is great. That is what Christ has come for. This is Israel’s redemption. *Lord, instruct me in the way You choose, and deliver me. Amen.*