

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 14:8**

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

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 Schirmer



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

The Bible is not about you. The Bible is about Jesus for you. Only in fixing our eyes on Jesus and His cross do we find any measure of hope in this life. In lifting our eyes to Christ, we are pulled away from ourselves, and can live free from trying to serve ourselves. Our Lord serves our needs, calls us righteous and perfect, and leaves us free to deal with our neighbor in the same love which saved us. As we struggle, fail, and sin, we keep our eyes on Jesus. He gives Himself to us in Word and Sacrament.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:57-80 John the Baptist: A Portrait of An Evangelical Preacher

Zacharias, by the power of the Holy Spirit, prophesied concerning his son, John. John's importance wasn't that he would do miracles. John's importance wasn't that he would be a great king. No, John's importance lay in the fact that he was the forerunner to Our Lord Jesus. John's job was to give knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins. What your pastor does is what John did. Your pastor teaches you. He gives you the knowledge of salvation. He gives you the forgiveness of sins in so many different ways on Sunday morning and during the week. Thanks be to God that He sends us preachers like John the Baptist!

Heavenly Father, You sent John as a Forerunner of Jesus. Send us preachers who will teach and forgive. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 God's Word is our Great Heritage

This portion of Psalm 119 goes well with Sunday's lesson. The penitent knows how spiritually impoverished he is. He lies in the dust. He knows that, apart from God's help, he will be put to shame. And what is God's solution? In what can a man find help? In God's Word. The Scriptures vivify, they give new life to the spiritually dead. The Word of God removes lying from our mouths and sets God's truth before us. The Word of God enlarges our heart, so that we might truly love our neighbors, removing the specks from their eyes. Dear Christian, no better advice can be given than this: Find your comfort and your riches in God's Word. *Holy Spirit, You have caused Scripture to be written for our learning. Lead us in the study of God's Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 Preserved and Perfected

This world is hard for the children of God. There is pain and suffering, a consequence of the Fall. Even creation groans under the heavy hand of sin. Animals, who originally ate only vegetation, now slaughter one another. Death and corruption are so pervasive that many are led astray. They think that death is a necessary component to how the universe works, i.e. Evolution. But we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. On the last day, we shall be freed of the corruption caused by sin. In the meantime, we eagerly wait and hope. *Lord Jesus, You have redeemed our bodies. Come quickly and free us from the bond of corruption. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 The Fruit of Repentance

The people of Isaiah's day thought that going through the motions of religious exercises was enough. But without repentance, sorrow over sin and faith in Christ, outward actions count for nothing. God through Isaiah points out what the fruits of repentance look like. These fruits are not in following the ceremonial law, at least in this section. On the contrary, the fruits of repentance look like the second table of the Law, loving your neighbor as yourself. Only the Holy Spirit can bring about true repentance, so that we can love and serve our neighbor as God commands in this chapter. The Spirit creates and gives undeserved rewards for such fruit. *Lord Jesus, create in us true repentance so that we may love our neighbor as Isaiah illustrates. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 Be Perfect

Be perfect as God our heavenly Father is perfect. That's impossible. How can we love those who hate us? How can we love those who have no loveable qualities? And yet, this is what the Law demands. The Law doesn't equivocate. The Law doesn't set conditions to its fulfillment. Do this, and you will live. But we cannot be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect apart from faith. Through faith, we receive Christ's perfect righteousness. He loves the unlovable. And because He first loved us, we love our enemies and we pray for our persecutors. *Lord Jesus, You showed Your love for us in Your sacrificial death upon the cross. Give us Your perfect righteousness. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-20 Saints Peter and Paul

The Apostles were no strangers to sin, but by God's grace, they learned to confess Christ, the Son of the Living God. By the Spirit's inspiration, they wrote the Scriptures that we might hear the living voice of Jesus today. They are an example to us of the fearless confidence that is found only in Christ, the unassailable rock upon which the Church is founded. *Merciful and eternal God, Your holy apostles Peter and Paul received grace and strength to lay down their lives for the sake of Your Son. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we may confess Your truth and at all times be ready to lay down our lives for Him who laid down His life for us. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92 The Difference between the Faithful and Faithless

This Psalm was used on the Sabbath. It is a response to the wonderful works of God. The Psalmist declares: "O Lord, how great are Your works!" And, we do! We thank Him for creation. We thank Him for our redemption through Jesus Christ. And we thank Him for our sanctification. These are God's mighty works. The fool, who says there is no God, cannot understand these things. The wicked will be destroyed forever. But those who are righteous by faith shall endure and bear fruit even in old age. May God grant that we are planted in church, in our Lord's house, so that we might be watered with the living water of the Spirit. *Heavenly Father, Your Works are great. Continue to work in us on Sunday morning and everyday. Amen.*

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