

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Wisdom 1:7; Psalm 68:1, 3, 4, 11, 33, 35**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alle- | luia.*

Let the righ- | teous be glad;
let them rejoice be- | fore God:*
yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Alle- | luia.
Let God arise, let His enemies be | scattered; *
let those also who hate Him flee be- | fore Him.
Sing to God, sing praises | to His name; *
extol Him who rides | on the clouds.
The Lord | gave the Word; *
great was the company of those who pro- | claimed it.
He sends out His voice, a | mighty voice.*
The God of Israel gives strength and power to His | people.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 14:16**

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God our merciful Father, who taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit, bring us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!

TLH 224, LSB 497

Martin Luther



1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
Be all Thy graces now out poured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of every land and every tongue;
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine
Oh, cause the Word of Life to shine!
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.

From every error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our Master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,
Grant us the will Thy work to do
And in Thy service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to Thee, our Lord, ascend.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



"The Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church"

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 Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church**

Almighty God purposefully and intentionally created the heavens and earth and all that is in them. We, too, are the intentional fruit of His Creation, children of the Heavenly Father. Our Lord is also the Creator of the Church. We are gathered together to receive the love of God in Christ Jesus—not by our doing, but by the generous working of His Holy Spirit. Luther explains in the Third Article of the Creed: “I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel . . . even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth.”

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:23-31 “The Helper, the Holy Spirit”**

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him.” These words of our Lord can sound like a tall order. We often lead our lives, thinking that we can or we must by our own reason and strength, achieve them. Our zeal soon fades; our understanding falls short; doubts creep in; and we wander. Luther makes this reality clear in his explanation of the Third Article of the Creed: “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel.” Our Lord sends His Spirit that we may know Him though the Word of His Son. *Heavenly Father, by the power of Your Spirit, keep us steadfast in Your Word that we may be kept eternally in Your love. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 48 “He will Guide us Forever.”**

“Behold, the kings assembled; they came on together.” It’s nothing new. The rulers of the world attack that which causes them offense, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints. Still today, Christians who cling to the Word of Life are often belittled, ridiculed, and persecuted. God defends His own; He protects that which is His. When the kings draw close, they are driven away in fear. Our Lord has made Himself known as a fortress. We dwell in the steadfast love of the Lord and give thanks for His protection. By the power of His Spirit the Church is kept safe in Christ Jesus. In faith, we sing “built on the Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.” *Lord, as we dwell in Your steadfast love, guide us forevermore. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 4:7-11 “Keep Loving One Another Earnestly”**

Our default setting is self. By nature we are focused inward. The world constantly encourages us to pursue our passions. Contrary to the teaching of the world, our passions do not lead to happiness. They lead us into debauchery and we become slaves of sin. Our Lord calls us to forsake our sinful passions and live in the Spirit. What does this look like? We look to our Lord. He came to serve, giving up His life that we may have life everlasting in Him. So, as we have been loved, we are set free to serve one another in love. As we have been gifted by God, we are called to be “good stewards of God’s varied grace.” *Lord, by the power of Your Spirit, deliver me from my passions that I might lovingly serve my neighbors to Your glory. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Joel 2:28-32 “I will Pour Out My Spirit on all Flesh.”**

Jesus died for the sins of the world. On the Day of Pentecost, the words of the prophet Joel were fulfilled. The Spirit of God was sent out unto the world. “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.” No one is excluded. There are no prerequisites, no required lineage. The Spirit is set loose that our hearts and minds might be opened to confess the truth, “Jesus is Lord.” “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” The Spirit of God was poured upon you in your baptism. Rejoice in the salvation of the Lord! *Lord, apart from You we have no life. May the gift of Your life-giving Spirit continue to sustain us in the true confession that we may be saved. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:15-21 “To be with you forever.”**

The Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth,” is sent unto us by the Father, at the request of the Son. God’s love for us is steadfast. We are conditioned in our day and age to believe that love comes and goes, springs up and dies. As we look around and at ourselves, this seems all too easily proven. This is not so with the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are never abandoned. The “Helper” is sent to be with us forever. We received Him in our baptism. We know Him, for He dwells with us and is in us. We are not left as orphans. We are adopted by the Father, through the Son, by the action of the Holy Spirit. *Gracious Father, may Your love continue to fill me that I may, with the aid of Your Helper, return Your love by keeping Your commandments. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 4:7-16 “We are to Grow into Him Who is the Head.”**

Every “new” teaching catches our eye and tempts us to stray. The cunning, craftiness, and deceitful schemes of the world tug at our reason. We are tossed to and fro by the waves. Children must grow up. We cannot totter forever. We are called to grow into Him Who is the Head—Christ. We are fed by the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and teachers who nourish us with the Word of God and, thereby, build us up into the body of Christ. Made a part of the body, through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are directed by Christ. In Christ, we grow and mature even as we are built up in love. In Christ, we are equipped to weather any storm. *Lord, may the proclamation of Your Word unite us and build us up in the body, of which You are the head. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 104 “When You Send Forth Your Spirit, They are Created”**

“I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of Heaven and earth.” This is the confession of the Holy Christian Church. The Lord almighty creates and sustains. The world searches in vain for an explanation of creation that excludes God. Nature is spoken of as an independent process with a mind of its own that came forth from the darkness by some unexplained chance or accident. The psalmist wonderfully and beautifully proclaims the truth with this psalm and puts to shame the “wisdom” of the world. “When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created.” *Heavenly Father, You set the earth on its foundations, brought forth the wonders of creation and continue to sustain them with Your Spirit. How manifold are Your works! Praise the Lord! Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal and are brought to you by Worldview Everlasting (www.worldvieweverlasting.com). Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week’s author is **Rev. Matthew Rasmussen**, pastor of Community Lutheran Church, in South Burlington, Vermont. He and his wife, Adrienne, are blessed to have been given two daughters, Makenna and Chloe.