PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 27:7-9, 1, 11-12
Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alleluia.
Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alleluia.
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?
Teach me Your way, O Lord,* do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,* and such as breathe out violence.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning. 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 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: He Ascended to Bless His People

As we celebrate our risen Lord's ascension to the right hand of God the Father almighty, so we also celebrate the gift of the Helper, the Holy Spirit Whom He sends to us. Jesus has ascended to all glory and majesty and power: He reigns on high! Yet He has not left us. He is ever with us. And more than that, He even grants to us His Holy Spirit, Who helps and comforts us, Who has called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. When we believe and confess that Jesus is Lord, we do so by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us. Praise be to God!

SCriPTURE: John 15:26-16:4 The Spirit, the Helper

Jesus has ascended to sit at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He ascended to all glory and power, all authority and might! And He is still with us. But more than that, He has sent the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to us. What does this Helper do? He is the one who has called us by the Gospel! He enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true Faith. When we by faith confess that God is our Father and Jesus is our Lord, we do so by the power of the Holy Spirit! **Lord, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, by Whom we believe and confess Your holy name. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: Psalm 93 Enthroned on High

The throne of the Creator of the universe and the throne of King David, which lasts into eternity, have become one. Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, is sitting upon it, ruling in majesty and glory forever. He is robed in majesty, wearing strength as His belt. The One by whom all things were made sits enthroned above the thunders of many waters, and yet He who is enthroned is your very brother! Jesus is forever both God and man; your brother is the One Who reigns on high! By the Spirit we join His holy family. **Lord, You reign on high: grant us to endure and reign with You, forevermore. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: Acts 2:1-13 Faith Comes By Hearing

The Spirit works through simple means: through water, word, wafer, and wine, through ordinary men placed into the Office of the Ministry, speaking God's Word into the hearts of many. The Spirit gives the gift of faith through hearing the Word of God in all languages, whether English or German, Chinese, Spanish, or ASL. The Spirit brings the Word of the Lord out into the farthest corners of the earth, using these means to accomplish salvation in the name of our risen and ascended Lord, Jesus. **Lord, thank You for the gift of faith, which is given by Your Word: use us as Your instruments to share that Word with the world. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27 A New Heart

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” The Lord has sprinkled you with the clean water of Holy Baptism. In that sprinkling, He has washed away all uncleanness and He has taken from you all idols: He alone is your God! In Baptism, the Lord takes your heart of stone and gives you a clean heart, a heart of flesh. And He places His own Spirit within you to guide you all the days of your life. By this washing, you are a new creation, created and redeemed by Jesus. **Lord, thank You for washing me and making me clean, for making me a new creation, redeemed and holy. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: John 17:20-26 The One True Faith

The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. We are all kept together by the power of the Spirit in that one true faith, to which the Lord calls us. We are brought together and unified as the Body of Christ, and by the gift of faith, we are united with Jesus, even as Jesus is one with our heavenly Father. **Lord, keep us together with You in the one true faith to life everlasting. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: Romans 8:29-39 At The Right Hand

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has ascended to the right hand of the Father and there He graciously intercedes for us, His called and gathered Church on earth. If Jesus is for us, who could ever be against us? Though many things may threaten us in this life, we have the sure confidence that there is nothing that could ever take us away from our Lord, who is continuously interceding for us. Nothing in all creation, not in life, not even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Lord, thank You for continually interceding for us and continually keeping us with You in the one true faith. Amen.**

SCriPTURE: Psalm 97 Rejoice!

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. He Who is the very Image of God is one with the Father. All who place their trust in images of false gods will be put to shame on the day when the Lord's glory is revealed, but you, O Zion, rejoice! Be glad! The Lord preserves the lives of His saints and delivers them from the hands of the wicked. You who have been made righteous, give thanks to His Holy Name, for He has delivered you from sin, death, and the devil. Rejoice in the Lord always! **Lord, thank You for Your great deliverance and for preserving Your saints; Your name be praised forever. Amen.**

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support