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. Alleluia.*
Let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God:* yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Alleluia.
Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before 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 proclaimed it. He sends out His voice, a mighty voice.* The God of Israel gives strength and power to His people.

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

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.

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.

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 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.

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**THEME OF THE WEEK: The Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church**

The Lord’s Word is powerful. By it we have everything. Creation exists because of the Word. We exist because of the Word. We have faith because of the Word. We have the church because of the Word. The church has the Lord’s gifts of Absolution, Baptism, Holy Communion, because of the Word. Accompanying these words is always the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, in ascending, gives us this gift in order that we would be comforted, be forgiven, be sustained, and especially that we would be given all the wonderful gifts which He has for us.

**SCRIPTURE: John 14:23-31 – Treasured Words**

Our Lord Jesus gives us the most important gift which could be given to anyone, words. But not just any words, these words grant us eternal life. They bring us out of darkness and give us faith. These words sustain us when times are dark. They bring us joy each morning. They teach and instruct and guide our daily lives. These words give us peace. To make things even more wonderful, these words come to us not only from Jesus, but also from the Father and the Holy Spirit. The whole Trinity speaks to us through these words. On account of that, we treasure the words, we love the words, and we keep them as our most precious treasure. Lord, help me ever to treasure Your Words to me. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 48 – Hearing and Seeing God’s Glory**

“As we have heard, so have we seen...” This is the pattern for the church. We first must hear from God what is the great reality of things. We hear that this water is not just plain water. We hear these words are not just those of a mere man. We hear that this isn’t just bread and wine. Then we see, by faith, according to those words. We see a life-giving water. We see God’s servant proclaming God’s forgiveness. We see Christ’s very body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. So too for the last day, we hear now of the great and glorious things. When we are called to glory, we will see, like the saints of Revelation, that wonderful reality. Lord, help me to see, by faith, what You promise to me in Your Word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:7-11 e – Love from God to Each Other**

Love covers a multitude of sins. Such is the nature of love. Love does not hold grudges. Love does not envy another’s gifts. Love does not look out for one’s self. Love seeks to help the neighbor, to put the best construction on things, and especially to forgive. Our Lord has given His love to us and we are therefore to be good stewards of it, to use that love in the service of our neighbor. As St. John reminds us, love for our neighbor flows from God’s own love, Who loved us first. So we look to God who loves us without grudges, or grumbling, or envy, or begrudgingly, but in joy. For the Lord rejoices to declare you forgiven on account of the Son’s work. Therefore, the Lord’s Joy becomes our joy as well. Lord, may Your love be my joy. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:8-32 – The Spirit is Poured on You**

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit descends upon the multitude. At Pentecost, we have the beginning of the fulfillment of the Prophet’s words. The Spirit is poured out on all flesh. But it does not stop there. The Spirit continues to be poured out today, in a number of ways, but in no way more wonderful than in the waters of Baptism. There, the Lord saves us according to His own mercy by the washing of the Holy Spirit “whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” In your Baptism, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon you for this express purpose: to save you. In that moment, the words of Joel are fulfilled in and for you. Lord, grant me to always rejoice in the pouring out of the Spirit on me in my Baptism. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-21 – Still Looking at Jesus**

There is always the temptation to think that because Jesus has ascended, because He is not standing right in front of us, He is gone from us. But nothing can be further from the truth. Because Jesus has sent to us the Spirit, we see Jesus in a way that the world cannot. “The world will see me no more, but you will see me.” The world sees only the external, outward things. It can’t see the beauty of the church, or the wonder of the Sacraments, or the truth of the Word. But the Christian can and does. Because the Christian has the Holy Spirit, given by Jesus, to enlighten our hearts, minds, and eyes, we continue to see Jesus, even today. Lord, help me always to see You in Your gifts by the Spirit. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:7-16 – The Lovely Truth**

Our Lord tells us to speak the truth to each other. He also reminds us that doing so is something which flows from love. We are to speak the truth to one another because we love one another. Jesus loves us enough to give us the truth, so we ought to love each other and therefore speak the truth. From that truth, and only from that truth, will we then grow up with one another into Christ, who is THE Truth, and thereby also the head. Sometimes that truth will hurt our selfish flesh, but that’s good. Our flesh needs to be crucified daily to the truth of God’s Law. But more importantly, our spirit is encouraged with the truth of the Gospel, so that more and more we become one body, with Christ the head. Lord, help me speak Your truth. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 – God’s Powerful Word**

The Lord’s Word is powerful. When He speaks things not only happen, but they come into existence. Where there was once nothing, now there exists the whole of creation, all because God said so. Even more wonderfully, the Lord continues caring for it all. He waters His creation, gives it nourishment, and gives wine to gladden hearts. This is all done by His Word, which continues to create and sustain. Most wonderfully, however, is that the Lord uses that same Word to bring us into the faith and to declare our sins forgiven and to give us His Sacraments. The Lord will use that powerful Word to call us from our graves on the last day. We will dwell with Him for eternity. The Lord’s Word is indeed powerful. Lord, thank You for Your Word. Amen.

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