

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 Luke 6:36

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

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 Shirmer



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.



Around the Word Devotions + July 13-19, 2025

“The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected 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.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 13-19, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Discipleship Preserved and Perfected by the Spirit

The theme of this week's devotions is... "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." The unregenerate man cannot show true mercy and forgiveness to his neighbor. Apart from being declared a child of God, man is incapable of truly showing mercy to his neighbor. Thankfully, God's Word accomplishes what He demands. As God shows mercy to you, forgiving your sins, He also likewise makes you merciful. Because you have been forgiven, so likewise, you desire to forgive your neighbor. God has made you merciful because He has made you His child.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:36-42 Merciful Like Jesus

Be like your Teacher (v. 40). Be like Jesus. And how is He? How does He act toward us? The text captures this. He is not harsh, angry, or vengeful. He is merciful (v. 36). He does not condemn, but pardons (v. 37). He gives in abundance, until the gifts are spilling over (v. 38). He is gracious and longsuffering, even unto the death on the cross. Our lives, then, are shaped by the life that Jesus gave for us. His mercy, His steadfast love, His kindness captures us. They capture our conscience with the forgiveness of our sins. And they capture our words and deeds as we live in mercy and love towards those around us. *Lord Jesus, thank You for Your abundant pardon and mercy. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:25-32 Suffering Causes Insight

God uses suffering to cause us to look for deeper insight into God's Word, to pray more, and to receive more of His gifts and benefits. Even when our souls cling to dust and waste away with sorrow, God's Word of promise is for us. Because His Word is with us, we run in the way of His commandments. He answers our prayers, is with us, and broadens our understanding. He raises us to follow His way of faithfulness in the Word made Flesh, instead of the false way of unbelief. *Lord, keep us on the way of faithfulness. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:18-23 The Best is Yet to Come

The beauty of this text is that we are reminded that we are not alone in our suffering. The whole of creation groans alongside us. No matter what may ail us or why we suffer, we are not alone. And though we endure such trials in this life, we know that there is more for us. We are able to face these sufferings with courage because Christ has promised that we will see the full redemption of not just our souls, but also our bodies in the new creation. We are reminded here that God's blessings are more than just spiritual, but they are also physical blessings when our bodies are raised in incorruptibility. *O Lord, please give me courage to face these days that I may be in the faith now and eternally at the promised resurrection of the dead. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6-12 Fasting that the LORD Chooses

The LORD has a different idea about fasting. We think of fasting as not eating, but the Lord points our efforts and suffering away from ourselves toward the service of the neighbor. If you want to suffer, the LORD says, don't skip a meal, but stop oppressing people, give something to eat to the hungry, find homes for the homeless and clothing for the naked. Rather than becoming curators of our own holiness, wander around and find someone to help. So the Lord takes the focus off ourselves, and pours our lives out in service to the neighbor. And the Lord amplifies this service with His promised help. "Then you will call, and the LORD will answer." *Lord, give us the heart and life to serve and bless our neighbor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48 Enemy Love

Even the heathen love their friends. You are not a heathen; you are a Christian. The love the Lord requires of you is more. "Love your enemies." That is hard, but it is not something that the Lord is unwilling to do first. In fact, this is exactly the business of the cross. "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (Romans 5:10). We were God's enemies, but there He is, bleeding and dying and praying and forgiving us, and winning a place for us in eternal life. Jesus is the lover of His enemies, the Savior of those who persecute Him, the One who prays for you, and teaches you to pray: *Father, forgive my enemies, they know not what they do. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-17 Blessed Are the Forgiven

This text shows us the culmination of our meditations for the week. Truly, our lawless deeds have been forgiven in Christ. This is often taught in Lutheran circles using the words "free gift." But what does that mean? It is used by non-Lutherans as well. Do we mean the same thing? No! This is not a gift that needs to be accepted by the power of our free will, as if God's grace depends on us. It is given without any need of our own will or desire to make it happen. This gift is received by faith, the faith that was worked in Baptism. Truly, God gives us all that He requires of us to have. Thanks be to God! *O Lord, be with me as I learn to live as Your forgiven child. Help me to be faithful and to live this new life that You have given me. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92 We Rejoice at God's Merciful Works

Note the occasion for this Psalm: the Sabbath. It was meant to be sung in the context of Israel's worship. And why did they worship? Why did they raise voices in praise? Because of what God had done! Because of His great works of mercy, steadfast love, and faithfulness. For these things, God's people rejoice. We continue to rejoice even though we see our enemies succeed in this life. We know that we are planted in God's kingdom. No matter what happens in this life, we will stand with the Lord of Life on the Last Day. What better reason is there than this to rejoice in His mercy shown to us and to gather together with His people to worship? *Merciful Lord, Your steadfast love for me brings me great joy and comfort. Grant that I may join with Your people to worship You again and again throughout my life. Amen.*

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