

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 27:1, 7, 9, 11-12, 14

Hear, O Lord, when I cry / with my voice!*

Have mercy also upon me, and / answer me.

You have / been my help;*

do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my sal- / vation.

The Lord is my light and my sal- / vation;*

whom / shall I fear?

Teach me Your / way, O Lord, *

and lead me in a / smooth path.

Do not deliver me to the will of my adver- / saries;*

for false witnesses have risen a- / gainst me.

Wait on the Lord; be of good / courage, *

and He shall streng- / then your heart.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:40 NKJV

“Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, who has prepared for those that love You such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

TLH 231, LSB 768
Martin Luther



Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 20-26, 2025

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit

God is holy. We are not. Knowing this and seeing the miracle, Peter said to Jesus, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." It is as if he is saying, "Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you" (Psalm 143:2). Jesus did not abandon Peter in the boat with his sin and shame. He said, "Do not be afraid." This Word of comfort is full of the Spirit Who cleanses human hearts by faith. When Jesus speaks kindly to sinners, when the Good News of His reconciling death is preached openly, the Holy Spirit casts a great net that calls, gathers, and sanctifies sinners so they stand forgiven and reconciled before God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 Death to Doubt

Human reasoning bends toward skepticism. Because of the fall trust is alien and hard work. Simon Peter has no reason to listen to Jesus's dubious fishing expertise. So, His confession, "at Your word," is miraculous. Working through Jesus' preaching overcomes the doubt we have about God that's embedded in our nature by sin. By the Spirit's work, Simon Peter confesses his fallen condition. Yet he foolishly begs Jesus to leave. Jesus won't have it. Instead, Jesus promises the continual outpouring of the Spirit to His disciples and everyone He calls, for the sake of their saving faith. His Spirit draws us near to Him all of our days, to His cross and until He comes again. *Lord, by Your Spirit put to death our doubt, sustain us now and the day of Your appearing. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, fifth part (HE v33-40) Source of Life

The psalmist asks the Lord to grant him such steadfastness that he would walk in the way of God's commandments and testimonies and that he would turn away from vanity and embrace understanding. What is the source for such steadfastness? Is it a more accurate understanding of the Lord's expectations? No. Rather, it is here at the end of the reading "Behold, I long for Your precepts; uphold me in Your righteousness. Uphold me in YOUR righteousness. The righteousness of God is granted to faith, and from this flows all manner of good works. *Lord Jesus, You grant me Your righteousness. Instill in me, as the psalmist, such faith toward You that I would live Your divine life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 Called to Bless

Sanctification can be defined widely or narrowly. In the wide sense it includes everything the Spirit does to make you holy like baptizing you, converting your heart by faith, and keeping you in the church through Word and Sacrament. Narrowly, it means your daily growth in faith, in doing more and more good works, and learning to forsake this world by desiring the next. This is the subject of our lesson. Peter says we are called to be a blessing to others. He tells us to do good, to seek peace and pursue it. From where should we obtain such a tender and loving heart? From the Spirit! He gives us His strength not only to be saved but to make us a blessing to others through daily doing good. *Grant me Your Spirit, O Lord, so I may bless and do good. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 16:14-21 Gathering the Scattered

When fathers won't teach their children to fear the Name of the Lord, generations suffer and are lost to eternal death. Rather than leaving the nations to their spiritual destruction, the Lord promises to bring His people back to their own land. We should not think this is going to be a politically reconstituted Israel. This is the Christian church. The fishers are the Apostles. The hunters are the men ordained into the preaching office. The Lord's people are the saints who have been pulled out of the sea of unbelief into the ark of the church. They have been caught by God's humbling Word of judgment and set free again by the absolution pronounced for the sake of Christ's atoning sacrifice. *Grant me and my children to know and fear Your Name, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-26 The Way of the Cross

The life of the Christian and the life of Christ are inexorably linked together. By His grace, His life is our life. His righteousness is our righteousness. And amazingly, His cross is also ours. His cross alone procured our salvation, but as the world hated Him it will also hate His followers for whom crosses literal and figurative cannot be far removed. That's you. But even as you bear the reproach of the world, as others think you strange or even bigoted, know that your cross is also Christ's. He lays it upon those whom He loves. He is with you. Do not deny Christ for the approval of this dying world. As you have been baptized into Christ's death, so you too will know His resurrection, His life. Embrace your cross. Embrace Jesus. *Lord, be with me always, for I trust You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 The Holy Habitation of the Lord

The Spirit's chief work in the broadest sense, is to make things holy. He does this by calling and gathering, as the Catechism says, by the Gospel of Christ. Those who have heard and believe, having been made holy by the blood of Christ and declared righteous, become fine materials the Spirit uses to build the Holy Christian Church. It seems natural that the spiritual sacrifices of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and God-pleasing works offered by this spiritual house are pleasing for Jesus' sake. And it makes good sense, too, that God's Spirit loves to dwell in each believer and the whole body of Christ. For God desires to be with those He loves. *Lord, by Your Spirit keep me body and soul as a member of Your holy habitation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 A Prayer of Praise for the Lord's Name

Among all your possessions, which is the most valuable? An antique piece of jewelry passed down through the family? Your new set of golf clubs? Your library? Perhaps you won't be so materialistic and say your children. Even your kids aren't as valuable as the great gift described by the psalmist. It is the Lord's Name. It is to be praised. It is blessed from the rising of the sun to its setting. It is the first thing for which Jesus tells us to pray in the Lord's Prayer. Why? Where the Lord places and reveals His Name, there is saving and eternal blessing. God be praised that He has placed His Name on you in baptism. He vindicates His Name when He works mightily through His Gospel to save you and give you peace. *Praise the name of the Lord! Amen.*

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