## PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 25:16, 18, 1-2, 5, 15, 20

Turn Yourself to me, and have mer- / cy on me,\* for I am desolate and af- / flicted.
Look on my affliction / and my pain,\* and forgive / all my sins.
To You, O Lord, I lift / up my soul.\* O my God, I trust in You; Let me not / be ashamed.
You are the God of my sal- / vation;\* on You I wait / all the day.
My eyes are ever / toward the Lord,\* for He shall pluck my feet out / of the net.
Keep my soul, and de- / liver me;\* let me not be ashamed, for I put my / trust in You.

## SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Luke 15:10

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."



### PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, the Protector of all that trust in You, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us Your mercy that, You being our Ruler and Guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

TLH 324, LSB 609 Erdmann Neumeister

- 1. Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander! Here is hope for all who grieve--Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 2.We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing, Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here their ills have perfect healing Who with humble hearts believe-Jesus sinners doth receive.

Come, accept His invitation; Come, obey His gracious call, Come and take His free salvation! Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. Oh, how blest it is to know; Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter Passion: For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.



# Around the Word Devotions + July 6-12, 2025

# "The Repentance Wrought by the Spirit"

## **D**BL In

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 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.

# Around the Word Devotions + the week of July 6-12, 2025

#### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Repentance Wrought by the Spirit

By our own reason and strength we poor sinners are incapable of producing the godly repentance that leads to salvation. But the Holy Spirit works true repentance in our hearts through the Word of God. First, He brings us to contrition, or sorrow over our sin, by the Law. Then, He creates in us faith, born of the Gospel, which trusts that our sin is forgiven for Jesus' sake. These are the two parts of repentance, that the sinner might have comfort and confidence before God, a comfort and confidence that could never be the work of man, but the divine and

glorious work of our gracious and merciful Lord.

#### SUN

#### SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-10 "Remember Me"

This silly shepherd goes and finds "the one." He recklessly leaves the 99 to go and search for that foolish wandering sheep who couldn't keep in the fold. He couldn't keep himself on the path or in line with the rest. The shepherd searches over valley and vale, and when he finds the lost sheep, he throws a party. What a ridiculous thing to do! His friends surely would question this man's sense. Why throw a party for a sheep too dumb to keep itself safe? That is how it works with Jesus. He does the unexpected thing of the Gospel, eschewing the normal and rational. A sensible shepherd would leave the one sheep in the wilderness, for that is what the sheep deserves. Jesus doesn't. He finds us and rescues us and rejoices with the angels over our

MON

TUE

#### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, third part (GIMEL v17-24) "The Godly Are in Conversation with the Word of God"

forgiveness. Good Shepherd, never stop seeking Your foolish lost sheep. Amen.

Consider the beautiful contrast in verses 23 and 24. The princes, those who rule in this world, sit together to plot and scheme against the righteous. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are about the overthrow of the Lord's institutions. In contrast to this, the righteous sit with the Lord's Word, with the prophets and apostles. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are filled with the Lord's wisdom. "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors." God's Word is our friend, and our joyful meditation on the Lord's Word brings a wisdom that

leads to life. O LORD, open my eyes, that I may see wonderous things from Your law. Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-11 "He Cares for You"

This world is tough. This life is full of trouble and cares. Jesus warned us, "in this world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33). What, then, do we do with all these "cares"? Peter has a very specific, simple, but precariously difficult instruction: "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." Like the disciples who cast their garments over the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem, we cast our cares on God. This happens in our prayers (see Philippians 4:6-7), which often sound like this: *O Lord, You have forbidden worry, but You have given me so much to worry about, so You are going to have to take care of all of this. Help me, deliver me, comfort me, and give me wisdom to bless You in the midst of all this trouble. Amen.*  WED

#### SCRIPTURE: Micah 7:18-20 "A God Like You"

Is there any other God like ours? All the false gods do things differently. They all tally good works against bad; and the result is never comforting to us. Every other god lays before us our sins and never picks them up. Every other god's anger rages and burns forever, never quenched, never satisfied. But our God isn't like all the others. He pardons iniquity. He has compassion. He tramples all sin underfoot. He takes all sin off of us and throws them into the depths of the sea where they will never see the light of day again. Go ahead, try and find another god like ours. Scour the world and plumb the deepest places of your imagination. Never will you find a god of for-

giveness apart from the One Who dies for the sinner and is crucified for those who don't deserve it. *Dear Father, delight in Your steadfast love. Amen.* 

# THU

#### SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32 "Brought to the Feast"

A father finds his son while he was yet a long way off. He welcomes him home and feasts with him. The other son, presumably much closer to home, is also a long way off. The father goes out and finds him, too. He is not content to leave any lost to darkness. So it is with our Father. He gives His own Son over to the darkness to find us and bring us back to Himself. He sets a Table and rejoices with us in feasting. *"Heavenly Father, daily gladden our hearts with the good news of salvation by Your seeking-and-finding Son, Jesus." Amen.* 

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-18 "The God Who Converts"

Our God converts people. We should remember this and rejoice. Saul, the Christian-killer, the Sanhedrin-authorized terrorist, the most dangerous and wretched evil man living, was converted. From a human perspective, from the perspective of Ananias and the Christians in Damascus hiding from Saul for fear of their lives, Saul is the last person you expect to confess Christ and be baptized. But Saul became a Christian, and a pastor, and the last of the apostles who bears the name of Jesus to the Gentile world. Our God converts people. We all know people who are far from the kingdom of God, who curse the God they

deny exists, who have left the church. This is our comfort and confidence: God converts. *O Lord, convert the unbelievers to Your name. Amen.* 

## SAT SCR

#### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 "To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul"

David lifts up his soul to the Lord: a soul that has sinned in youth, that has committed many transgressions, that has borne great guilt. Nevertheless David trusts that the God of his salvation will pardon his guilt and forgive all his sins. Such faith is never put to shame. In the same faith we enter into God's presence confessing all our sins and iniquities and asking for God's mercy, and in response we hear, "I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Amen.* 

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