

5

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.

6

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.”

7

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

8

## 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.

9

## PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
**Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

TLH 324, LSB 609

Erdmann Neumeister



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

MON

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

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 wondrous things from Your law. Amen.*

TUE

#### 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 forgiveness 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

#### 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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