

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 85:5-6; 18:1-2, 27, 32, 49

The sorrows of Sheol sur- | rounded me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord,\*  
He heard my voice from His | temple.  
I will love You, O | Lord, my strength.\*  
The Lord is my rock and my | fortress.  
For You will save the humble | people,\*  
but will bring down | haughty looks.  
It is God who arms | me with strength,\*  
and makes my way | perfect.  
Therefore I will give thanks to | You, O Lord,\*  
and sing praises | to Your name.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 11:6

“If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**9** PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

**10** SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK  
Salvation Unto Us Has Come

TLH 377, LSB 555  
Paul Speratus



1. Salvation unto us has come  
By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom,  
They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.



Around the Word Devotions + January 28-February 3, 2018

Brought to you by Worldview Everlasting

“The Lord’s Call to Repentance”

**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 January 28-February 3, 2018

### THEME OF THE WEEK: The Lord's Call to Repentance

Coming down from the mountain, the Lord instructs His Church before the season of fasting and repentance. The first lesson is grace. The Lord's grace is extravagant and gratuitous. It is limited only by our self-righteousness. Those who wish to possess it by right, by merit, or on their own terms, find a harsh master. Those who desperately need it find the true God, Who gives even His own Son up for the benefit of those who do not deserve Him. Envy is the enemy of grace. Repent and wait for the Lord to call you into His grace. This is how He brings you into His house forever and puts you to profitable work in His kingdom.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16—Grace is Not a Right

The Lord chooses to be generous, gracious. But the way of grace flies in the face of human reason. Reason loves earnings, entitlement, and reward. To our thinking, the Lord is the evil one, paying out the wages unfairly. To the Lord, nothing is further from the kingdom than self-righteousness. There is, of course, another point being made by Jesus—the Gentiles now receive what the Jews always had, and the Jews begrudge them this. Salvation is not a possession in this way. It is a gift. Thus, the most fearful words possible are “go away.” *Lord, call us to Yourself and keep us glad for Your lavish grace. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23—Everyone's Favorite; Still the Best

The whole Catechism is here, if one looks. The first commandment means we need no other God with this Shepherd caring for us. He leads us in His righteous paths and corrects with rod and staff. But the righteousness He gives is on account of His Name—Father, with Christ our Shepherd, and the Comforter. He leads us not into temptation, but delivers us from evil. He makes us His lambs, anointing us in Baptism, restoring our souls in Absolution, setting His table for His Supper. He prepares a place for us in His house forever. *O great Shepherd, comfort us with Your goodness and mercy. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5—Certainty or Security?

It is good to be certain of salvation because you are confident in the promises of Christ. It is bad to be secure in your sins because of them. In fact, such a person is rejecting those promises. Relying on yourself—this world's gospel—will disqualify you every time. St. Paul recognizes that he is not owed anything for being an apostle. Moses and the chosen fathers of Israel were not entitled to salvation either. An undisciplined life will turn your eyes away from the prize, the Rock: Christ, in whom there is every certainty. *Lord, be pleased with us in Christ, and keep our faith fixed in Him alone. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10—The Divine Call

Hebrews begins, “In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.” The call of Jeremiah was from before he was even born. It came to him while he was yet a child. It was immediate. The call of pastors and preachers today is mediate—it comes through the Church, not from birth or in the heart. But the promises of God for Old Testament prophets and New Testament pastors are very much the same: God puts His own Word into their mouths, so that you may trust it. God watches over His Word to perform it. *Lord, give courage to our pastors to preach without fear. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30—Faith Does What It Believes

The third servant with one talent believed his master to be a hard, vengeful, merciless master. He acted out of fear as a result. When the master returned, he was exactly as the servant believed him to be. Our God is merciful. Those who believe and trust that mercy receive it. We ought to be bold with our “talents” also, then, if we have nothing to lose. This is the way that salvation by true faith and sheer grace leads to many good works. *Lord, remove our fear and set our faith rightly on Your mercy, that we may be fruitful servants. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:22-32—Redeeming the Redeemer?

Today is 40 days after Jesus' birth. Jesus, the Holy One from before time, is born as a holy one to the Lord—the firstborn. But today His parents redeem Him. They buy Him back from God at the Temple. He is numbered again with Israel, though He is truly God's Son. This is because He will be the Passover Lamb who spares and redeems all to be holy to the Lord, sons and heirs of God. Simeon was waiting for this consolation. He did not see the blood on the crossbeams, but he did see the Lord's Christ—Israel's consolation, and the Gentiles' light. *[Pray or sing the Nunc Dimittis, Simeon's song]*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114—God Goes With Them

This is a very brief and poetic Psalm whose poetry comes out well in our English. The Children of Israel were led by the Lord who went with them. The sea fled—both the Red Sea and all the people living near it; the Jordan turned back also, as the priests bore the ark into the promised land on dry ground. God brought water out of the Rock (Christ) in the desert. Israel conquered their land. But who, indeed, caused all these places, rivers, and peoples to tremble? Not Israel, but the Holy One in their midst. *Lord, go with us and comfort us by Your presence. Amen.*

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