

**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 **1 Peter 2:10**

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, now you have received mercy.”

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

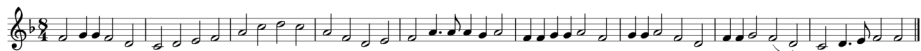
**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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



1. We now implore the Holy Ghost  
For the true faith, which we need  
the most,  
That in our last moments He may  
befriend us  
And, as homeward we journey,  
attend us.  
Lord, have mercy!

4. Thou highest Comfort in every need,  
Grant that neither shame nor death  
we heed,  
That e’en then our courage may never  
fail us  
When the Foe shall accuse and  
assail us.  
Lord, have mercy!



“The Sanctification Wrought 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 1-7, 2018

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

It is a popularly held sentiment that we are all “good people.” A ruler once called Jesus “Good Teacher.” Jesus replied, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone” (Luke 18:19). Apart from God, we are not good. Thanks be to God, we are made good (sanctified) through the merciful working of the Holy Spirit. Through water and Word, our Lord washes us and makes us clean. We receive His goodness. When we are called good we ought to clarify, as Jesus did, giving God the glory. It is only through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we can be joined to the font of goodness—God the Father Almighty.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 “Let down your nets for a catch.”**

We are often tempted to think that God is distant and disconnected from our day-to-day lives. We pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” and at the same time we think we are the ones ultimately in control. Simon knew how to fish. He fished for a living. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus tells him to let down his nets. Simon, out of respect for Jesus, obeys. The catch is overwhelming. Simon falls to his knees in shame. Why? Because he thought his well-being was in his control. Jesus teaches that, apart from Him, we can accomplish nothing. Our Lord provided for our eternal well-being on the cross and He continues to provide for us daily. *Lord, forgive me when I believe You to be incapable. Bring me to my knees that I may receive new life in You. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 “Filled with the Holy Spirit”**

Following the Annunciation, Mary went with haste to visit her relative Elizabeth. Mary likely needed to find a safe place to go due to her improbable circumstances. Who could understand or believe that Mary would give birth to the Messiah? Elizabeth understood. How? By the power of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth is given to believe that Mary is the mother of the Lord. God’s ways are beyond our grasp and understanding. Apart from His gracious working, we are literally in the dark. With the Holy Spirit, the darkness is chased away. Hearts and minds are illumined that the Truth may be known and even believed. *Thank You, dear Heavenly Father, for filling me with Your Spirit in my baptism that I may be Your humble servant and proclaim Your love. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 “Bless, for to this you were called.”**

“Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil.” Our tongues are not naturally inclined to bless. They prefer gossip and slander while taking pleasure in casting down our neighbors in an attempt to justify ourselves. Thankfully, through the merciful working of the Holy Spirit, our Lord intervenes. His Spirit is placed within us and we are called to “turn away from evil and do good,” and “to seek peace and pursue it,” to bless our neighbors. The Spirit, given in baptism, empowers us to share the love of God in Christ Jesus, and in so doing, we are blessed. *Lord, may Your Spirit give me the ability to forsake the evil that comes all too easily to my lips that I may be a blessing to others and be blessed by You. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 16:14-21 “They shall know that My name is the Lord.”**

“Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!” We are skilled at making gods in our own image, gods that approve and affirm our every action and desire. These are not gods. These are nothing but lies, idols of our own making. How do we know the true Lord? “Behold, I will make them know,” says the Lord. The Lord does not leave us to our false idols. By the power of His Holy Spirit, He calls us from our foolishness. He opens our eyes. We are no longer blinded by our iniquity. We now humbly confess our sins to the one true God. God has made Himself known to the nations in His Son, Jesus Christ. By the power of His Spirit we believe in His Name. *Father we thank You for Your Son, our Savior, and for the Spirit Who has given us faith. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-26 “Who do you say that I am?”**

Peter answers, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” What an astounding reply! Lest we think too highly of Peter, the Lord reveals the source of Peter’s knowledge: “Blessed are you, Simon, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.” In other words, Peter’s confession did not come from within; it was given to him by God. Apart from God’s revelation, Peter receives Jesus’ rebuke, “Get behind Me, Satan!” We are blessed when we cling to the Word of God, which we have received, and cursed when we are tempted to override His Word with thoughts of our own. *Heavenly Father, protect us from the temptations of Satan and our flesh, and keep us steadfast in Your Word that we may receive Your blessing. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 “You have received mercy.”**

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, now you have received mercy.” We are born in bondage. God’s chosen people were in bondage in Egypt before they were mercifully delivered through the miraculous parting of the waters of the Red Sea. Likewise, we are born slaves to sin and are mercifully delivered through the miraculous working of water and Word in Holy Baptism. Baptized in His Name most holy, we have received mercy and are children of God. We are called out of darkness and into His marvelous light. *Lord, may we faithfully proclaim Your excellencies that others may know and receive Your mercy. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 113 “He raises the poor from the dust.”**

The psalmist exclaims: “The Lord is high above all the nations, and His glory above the heavens!” The Lord is a merciful ruler. He delights in exulting the humble, raising the poor from the dust and the needy from the ash heap. We are reminded of Mary’s Magnificat: He has “exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things.” Born of the Virgin Mary, God became man. Christ humbled Himself to the point of suffering death on a cross that we may be lifted up on high. With Mary and the psalmist, we rejoice in our salvation: “Praise the Lord!” *Heavenly Father, King of Glory, by the power of Your Spirit, raise us up and deliver us from this veil of tears to Your kingdom which has no end. Amen.*

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