

“The Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church”



5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Wisdom 1:7; Psalm 68:1, 3, 4, 11, 33, 35

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alle- | luia.*
Let the righ- | teous be glad;
let them rejoice be- | fore God;*
yes, let them rejoice exceedingly. Alle- | luia.
Let God arise, let His enemies be | scattered; *
let those also who hate Him flee be- | fore Him.
Sing to God, sing praises | to His name;*
extol Him who rides | on the clouds.
The Lord | gave the Word;*
great was the company of those who pro- | claimed it.
He sends out His voice, a | mighty voice.*
The God of Israel gives strength and power to His | people.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God our merciful Father, who taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit, bring us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 224, LSB 497
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord! Martin Luther



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
Be all Thy graces now out poured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of every land and every tongue:
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!</p> | <p>That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!</p> |
| <p>2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine
Oh, cause the Word of Life to shine!
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From every error keep us free:
Let none but Christ our Master be</p> | <p>3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,
Grant us the will Thy work to do
And in Thy service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to Thee, our Lord, as-
cend.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!</p> |

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.

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Holy Spirit: Creator of the Church**

The Holy Spirit brings us to Jesus. How does it happen? He inspired the apostles' words to be greater than mere religious thoughts and opinions. He breathed God's Word into them. He brought to their remembrance all that Jesus said and did during His life, death, and resurrection. So, we're not getting men's subjective perspectives in the Bible, but God's saving truth and presence. The Spirit makes us hear Jesus when we hear the gospel according to St. Matthew or St. John. Jesus, through this inspired Word, brings us to the Father, to know

His love, to marvel at His grace, to worship Him by faith with prayers, praise, and thanksgiving.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:23-31: The Miracle of Pentecost**

Churches obsessed with speaking in tongues, healing, seeing the future, and handling venomous animals often tie their confidence in salvation to the personal possession of these gifts in an unbiblical way. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit has come to give gifts to the church. But they're not what the flesh expects. Because of boldness to confess the truth, the church leapt from the shadows on the day of Pentecost to conquer hearts of every nation, tribe, and language. A terrified band of men gained the courage to defy empires so that ears would hear the saving promises of Christ. This is the great miracle of Pentecost, and this gift of the Spirit continues in the church today. *O Holy Spirit, grant me boldness to confess Christ's saving name. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 48: Zion's Ramparts**

Consider the nature of Christ's kingdom on this earth. It doesn't spread by force of arms and political machinations. Everything depends on the preaching of God's Word. Where the fruits of Jesus' atonement are proclaimed, there a spiritual Mount Zion rises out of the parched earth of despair. The faithful gather to it and find refuge from all their enemies of body and soul. This is how the Lord's praises reach to the ends of the earth. This is how the heavenly Jerusalem gains sons and daughters to fill its streets giving refuge behind its walls. So walk around Zion. Go around her. Study her doctrine. Marvel at the gracious promises that protect her from sin and death. *This is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Peter 4:7-11: The End of All Things**

These are the last days. Everything should have petered out centuries ago. Human nature loses strength and wisdom with every passing generation. Civilization crumbles. Nature groans for its redemption. We know neither the day nor the hour of our Savior's coming, but we know that it could happen any moment. That's what St. Peter says. Therefore, we should live soberly in mind and body. Our prayers should remain vigorous and frequent. When we suffer, remember that it's necessary to share in Christ's sufferings, so that we'll also share in His glory. Now is not the time to grow lazy and complacent. Now is the time to believe, to love, to forgive, to pray, and to watch. *Grant that my life glorifies you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Joel 2:28-32: Pouring Out the Spirit**

This is St. Peter's preaching text for the feast of Pentecost. Filled with the Spirit, he saw every one of these words fulfilled, which helps us understand what Joel meant when he said that Israel's sons and daughters would prophesy. They would confess the mighty works of God through Jesus Christ. The dreams and visions concern Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension to God's right hand. We also participate in the fulfillment of these words when we confess and speak aloud everything God has done through Jesus. This is the effect of the Spirit's outpouring on the church. This is the age when everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. *Grant me Your Spirit to prophesy and confess Your Name, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **John 14:15-21: Keep My Commandments**

Faith and sin don't go together. Yes, we're burdened with the weakness of our flesh on this side of the grave. Yes, we daily sin much and need to hear the forgiveness of sins frequently. But that doesn't mean that we should let sin rule our lives. Hasn't God given us the Spirit to dwell with us and in us? The Spirit knows your weakness. He gives the desire to do what God commands. He gives strength to keep His Word with a good conscience. He gives us love to forgive our enemies, to serve our neighbors, and to pray for the saints. Jesus comes to us through His Word and Sacrament. He is in us and we are in Him. Through Him we know the Father, salvation, and eternal victory. *Grant me the will and strength to keep Your commandments. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **Ephesians 4:7-16: Built Up in Love**

The riches of Christ's ascension and the sending of the Spirit are unfathomable. Once we were captives to sin. Now we are free in Christ Jesus. By grace He has given us gifts of salvation. He also has instituted a ministry of the Word so that we would be equipped to discern lies from truth, to turn from human cunning to trust in the promises of Scripture, to be built up in love as we do the works God finds pleasing. Just as we grow from childhood to maturity in the flesh, so also should we continue to spiritually grow in faith and love as long as God grants us life on this earth. We don't all have the same calling, but our callings are from God to serve and to build up the church as God desires. *Grant me to grow in into the head, who is Christ. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 104: The Apotheosis of Creation**

There's validity to the teleological argument, that all creation has been fashioned by God specifically for the abundance and prosperity of life on this planet. It's no accident that the earth is the perfect place in the solar system. Neither is it by chance that the mountains and valleys provide shelter, water, and food for both men and beast. This is only the beginning of wisdom. By faith we know the loving kindness of the God who laid the foundations of the earth. We know that in love He sent His Son to redeem mankind after we had corrupted creation through sin. Christians, therefore, see the heavens and earth differently. We see how they proclaim God's glory and love. *O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Pastor A. Brian Flamme**. He is pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Roswell, NM. He is married to a beautiful wife, Jennifer, and has three boys, Jason, Noah, and Caleb. God be praised!