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 Psalm 119:40 NKJV

"Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness."

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

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

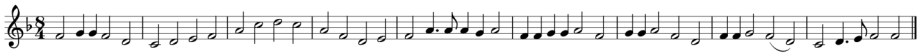
O God, who has prepared for those that love You such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

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!

Around the Word Devotions + July 5-11, 2026

"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 5-11, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Sanctification Wrought by the Spirit

God is holy. We are not. Knowing this and seeing the miracle, Peter said to Jesus, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." It is as if he is saying, "Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you" (Psalm 143:2). Jesus did not abandon Peter in the boat with his sin and shame. He said, "Do not be afraid." This Word of comfort is full of the Spirit Who cleanses human hearts by faith. When Jesus speaks kindly to sinners, when the Good News of His reconciling death is preached openly, the Holy Spirit casts a great net that calls, gathers, and sanctifies sinners so they stand forgiven and reconciled before God.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11 Death to Doubt

Human reasoning bends toward skepticism. Because of the fall trust is alien and hard work. Simon Peter has no reason to listen to Jesus's dubious fishing expertise. So, His confession, "at Your word," is miraculous. Working through Jesus' preaching overcomes the doubt we have about God that's embedded in our nature by sin. By the Spirit's work, Simon Peter confesses his fallen condition. Yet he foolishly begs Jesus to leave. Jesus won't have it. Instead, Jesus promises the continual outpouring of the Spirit to His disciples and everyone He calls, for the sake of their saving faith. His Spirit draws us near to Him all of our days, to His cross and until He comes again. *Lord, by Your Spirit put to death our doubt, sustain us now and the day of Your appearing. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119, fifth part (HE v33-40) Source of Life

The psalmist asks the Lord to grant him such steadfastness that he would walk in the way of God's commandments and testimonies and that he would turn away from vanity and embrace understanding. What is the source for such steadfastness? Is it a more accurate understanding of the Lord's expectations? No. Rather, it is here at the end of the reading "Behold, I long for Your precepts; uphold me in Your righteousness. Uphold me in YOUR righteousness. The righteousness of God is granted to faith, and from this flows all manner of good works. *Lord Jesus, You grant me Your righteousness. Instill in me, as the psalmist, such faith toward You that I would live Your divine life. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-15 Called to Bless

Sanctification can be defined widely or narrowly. In the wide sense it includes everything the Spirit does to make you holy like baptizing you, converting your heart by faith, and keeping you in the church through Word and Sacrament. Narrowly, it means your daily growth in faith, in doing more and more good works, and learning to forsake this world by desiring the next. This is the subject of our lesson. Peter says we are called to be a blessing to others. He tells us to do good, to seek peace and pursue it. From where should we obtain such a tender and loving heart? From the Spirit! He gives us His strength not only to be saved but to make us a blessing to others through daily doing good. *Grant me Your Spirit, O Lord, so I may bless and do good. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

WED

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 16:14-21 Gathering the Scattered

When fathers won't teach their children to fear the Name of the Lord, generations suffer and are lost to eternal death. Rather than leaving the nations to their spiritual destruction, the Lord promises to bring His people back to their own land. We should not think this is going to be a politically reconstituted Israel. This is the Christian church. The fishers are the Apostles. The hunters are the men ordained into the preaching office. The Lord's people are the saints who have been pulled out of the sea of unbelief into the ark of the church. They have been caught by God's humbling Word of judgment and set free again by the absolution pronounced for the sake of Christ's atoning sacrifice. *Grant me and my children to know and fear Your Name, O Lord. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-26 The Way of the Cross

The life of the Christian and the life of Christ are inexorably linked together. By His grace, His life is our life. His righteousness is our righteousness. And amazingly, His cross is also ours. His cross alone procured our salvation, but as the world hated Him it will also hate His followers for whom crosses literal and figurative cannot be far removed. That's you. But even as you bear the reproach of the world, as others think you strange or even bigoted, know that your cross is also Christ's. He lays it upon those whom He loves. He is with you. Do not deny Christ for the approval of this dying world. As you have been baptized into Christ's death, so you too will know His resurrection, His life. Embrace your cross. Embrace Jesus. *Lord, be with me always, for I trust You. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:4-10 The Holy Habitation of the Lord

The Spirit's chief work in the broadest sense, is to make things holy. He does this by calling and gathering, as the Catechism says, by the Gospel of Christ. Those who have heard and believe, having been made holy by the blood of Christ and declared righteous, become fine materials the Spirit uses to build the Holy Christian Church. It seems natural that the spiritual sacrifices of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and God-pleasing works offered by this spiritual house are pleasing for Jesus' sake. And it makes good sense, too, that God's Spirit loves to dwell in each believer and the whole body of Christ. For God desires to be with those He loves. *Lord, by Your Spirit keep me body and soul as a member of Your holy habitation. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 A Prayer of Praise for the Lord's Name

Among all your possessions, which is the most valuable? An antique piece of jewelry passed down through the family? Your new set of golf clubs? Your library? Perhaps you won't be so materialistic and say your children. Even your kids aren't as valuable as the great gift described by the psalmist. It is the Lord's Name. It is to be praised. It is blessed from the rising of the sun to its setting. It is the first thing for which Jesus tells us to pray in the Lord's Prayer. Why? Where the Lord places and reveals His Name, there is saving and eternal blessing. God be praised that He has placed His Name on you in baptism. He vindicates His Name when He works mightily through His Gospel to save you and give you peace. *Praise the name of the Lord! 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, Pastor Joseph McCalley, and Pastor Brandon Ross.