

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Wisdom 11:24–26; Psalm 57:1-3**

You have mercy on | all, O Lord,\*  
and abhor nothing | You have made.  
You look past the sins of men that they | may repent.\*  
You spare them all because You are our | Lord, our God.  
Be merciful to me, O God, be merci- | ful to me!\*

For my soul | trusts in You;  
and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my | refuge,\*  
until these calamities have | passed by.  
I will cry out to | God Most High,\*  
to God who performs all | things for me.  
He shall send from heaven and | save me;\*  
God shall send forth His mercy | and His truth.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **2 Corinthians 5:21**  
"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK  
Merciful and everlasting God, who did not spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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  
**Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

TLH 140, LSB 440  
Sigismund Von Birken



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| <p>1. Jesus, I will ponder now<br/>On Thy holy Passion;<br/>With Thy Spirit me endow<br/>For such meditation.<br/>Grant that I in love and faith<br/>May the image cherish<br/>Of Thy suffering, pain, and death,<br/>That I may not perish.</p> | <p>5. If my sins give me alarm<br/>And my conscience grieve me,<br/>Let Thy cross my fear disarm,<br/>Peace of conscience give me.<br/>Grant that I may trust in Thee<br/>And Thy holy Passion.<br/>If His Son so loveth me,<br/>God must have compassion.</p> |
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**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 February 7-13, 2016

## THEME OF THE WEEK: Repentance

The theme of the week is “Repentance.” (We take the theme of the week from Wednesday, not Sunday. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent.) Repentance has two parts: contrition and faith. Contrition is sorrow over sin. It is the profound fear of our sin, and the fear of God that He will punish our sins. Contrition is the work of God’s Law. Faith is the second part of repentance, and faith is our simple trust in the promises of God. Jesus says to us, “Your sins are forgiven.” Faith says, “Amen!” Faith is the work of the Gospel. We rejoice this week (and every week) that the Holy Spirit teaches us repentance.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:35-43: The Hearing that Sees

When Martin Luther died his friends found a note scribbled in his pocket. It read, in part, “We are beggars. This is true.” When we stand before God we stand as beggars with empty hands and hearts, asking the Lord to have mercy on us. So the Holy Spirit puts before us in our reading a beggar to teach us how to pray. The blind man sitting outside Jericho hears that the commotion is Jesus, and he begins his praying and begging, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” He is a Christian, and he knows how to pray. “Have mercy on me!” Jesus loves to hear this prayer, and He answers it for our blind brother, and gives him sight. Thanks be to God for such a beautiful instruction in prayer. *Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 10:1-4: Nadab and Abihu destroyed by the Lord

God’s holiness is dangerous for sinners. Nadab and Abihu, the two oldest sons of Aaron, learn this in drastic fashion. They mixed up some incense with their own recipe, and the Lord visited them with His anger for this disobedience. The Lord is establishing the worship of the Old Testament, making a way for the people to stand in His presence and receive His blessing. Nadab and Abihu threw off the Lord’s instruction and suffered for it, but for the people who come to the tabernacle according to the Lord’s institution find there a good and gracious God, a Friend and Savior who forgives our sins. *Be gracious to us, O Lord, and forgive our sins. Grant us to draw near to You by the blood of Jesus. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21: Jesus Made Sin to Make Us Righteous

Theologians have taught us to talk about the Gospel as the “Great Exchange.” God takes upon Himself our sin and condemnation and death, and He gives us His life and salvation and righteousness. This is a truly wonderful and great exchange, and it is most clearly taught in our text today. God makes Christ, who never sinned, to be sin for us, that we might be the righteousness of God in Him. It is stunning that Jesus takes all our sin and wretchedness, and even more stunning that He gives us (not just the righteousness of Adam and Eve, but) His own righteousness. *Lord Jesus, that You for exchanging my sin for Your life. Amen.*

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WED

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 51:1-12: Ash Wednesday Repentance

On Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are dust, and that we will return to dust. We are mortal. We are dying. And we are sinners, offending God every day will our failures. The Ten Commandments are a mirror that shows our sin and accuses us. So we repent. We confess our sins. We admit our failures. We speak to God of our guilt and shame. And His answer is not destruction or wrath, but kindness and mercy. He forgives our sins. He covers our shame. The Lord’s answer to our sin is the cross of Jesus, and this is our great comfort and delight, our confidence and our peace. Jesus, too, was dust, but He was raised from the dead, and He raises us to newness of life. *Grant me contrition and faith, O Lord, so that I would know Your mercy for me. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:16-21: True Repentance

True repentance is a gift of God. We can create neither contrition nor faith. These are worked in us through God’s Word of Law and Gospel. The Law shows our sin and God’s wrath, and we are contrite. The Gospel shows us Christ and promises forgiveness, and we believe it. The Pharisees tried to make their own repentance. They would disfigure their faces and act sad, but this was all a show, and it resulted in either pride or despair. True repentance ends in faith; it ends in Christ where we find pure joy. *Heavenly Father, grant us true repentance, and the joy of knowing that in Your Word we have forgiveness, life, and salvation. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Joel 2:12-19: Torn Hearts

In the Old Testament the people would show their sorrow by tearing their clothes and putting ashes on their heads. That is how Job’s friends find him, in sackcloth and covered in ashes. This is the external shape of repentance, but in the preaching of Joel the Lord is calling His people to a repentance that cuts to the heart. “Rend your heart, and not your garment” (2:13). We sometimes think that our bodies are bad but our hearts are good, that we sin on the outside and do well on the inside. This is wrong. Our hearts are also sinful. Our minds are full of sin. So our repentance cuts through our minds and hearts until we are not only confessing the we sin, but that we are sinners. But the broken and contrite heart, these God does not despise. *Lord have mercy.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 6: Rebuke Me Not, O Lord

Psalm 6 is a prayer for the Lord’s kindness. We know that the Lord should be angry with us. We know we have sinned. We know that we have deserved the Lord’s “temporal and eternal punishment.” So we pray for mercy. We pray that the Lord’s anger would be turned away. And when we pray for these things we are praying for Jesus. It is His suffering and death that turns away God’s wrath forever. It is in the cross of Jesus that we find the kindness of God. It is at Calvary that the Lord’s smile is instituted. So we pray Psalm 6 knowing that our prayer has already been answered in Christ. *O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak. Amen.*

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