

**5** PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK **Psalm 27:7-9, 1, 11-12**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alle- | lua.\*  
Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me. Alle- |  
lua.  
The Lord is my light and my sal- | vation;\*  
whom | shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength | of my life;\*  
of whom shall I | be afraid?  
Teach me Your | way, O Lord,\*  
do not deliver me to the will of my adver- | saries;  
for false witnesses have risen a- | gainst me,\*  
and such as breathe out | violence.

**6** SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK **John 15:26**

[Jesus said,] “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me.”

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

**8** PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty, everlasting God, cause us always to have a devout will toward You and to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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  
**We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend**

TLH 223  
Unknown



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend,<br>That Thou didst into heaven ascend.<br>O blessed Savior, bid us live<br>And strength to soul and body give.<br>Hallelujah!    | 4. We therefore heartily rejoice<br>And sing His praise with cheerful voice;<br>He captive led captivity,<br>From bitter death He set us free.<br>Hallelujah!                |
| 2. Ascended to His throne on high,<br>Hid from our sight, yet always nigh;<br>He rules and reigns at God's right hand<br>And has all power at His command.<br>Hallelujah! | 5. Through Him we heirs of heaven are<br>made;<br>O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid<br>That we may firmly trust in Thee<br>And through Thee live eternally.<br>Hallelujah! |



**“He Ascended to Bless His People”**

**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 May 8-14, 2016

### THEME OF THE WEEK: He Ascended to Bless His People

By the 7th week of Easter, much of the emotional high of the season has all but faded. We also stand on the latter side of the Ascension, where our Lord was taken up into heaven to sit at the right hand of God. The joyous festival half of the Church Year gives way to the long green season, where we turn our focus to the life of the Church. Though it may be tempting to regard this season as dull and boring, our Ascended Lord continues to bless and guide His Church with His Word. He has not abandoned us, but sends His Holy Spirit to show us the blessings Christ gives to us as He governs all things in heaven and on earth for our benefit.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: John 15:25-16:4: Persecution

Jesus warns us about a good many things in the Gospels. In this text, we read about the certainty of persecution that Christians will face in this life. Our Lord's warnings are not meant to scare us away but are intended to draw us closer to Him. When we suffer in this life, especially at the hands of others for our confession, the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, will remind us that Jesus said this would happen. But we need not fear, because the Father and the Son have sent us the Holy Spirit to comfort and sustain us by pointing us to Christ, who has suffered for us and for our salvation. *Heavenly Father, hold the suffering of Jesus before my eyes as the end of my suffering in this life. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93: The Lord Reigns

Our Lord reigns from the right hand of God, ordering all things in heaven and on earth for our good. Even though the Church may be battered about by the winds and the waves of this world, God is still in control of all things. From His throne, God pronounces trustworthy decrees that cannot be overcome by the chaotic forces that seem to rule the day around us. Through the Word, the Spirit points us to the God who, by His Word, stills storms, cancels sins, and casts out the power of the devil. Through this Word, God clothes us in His holiness and thus assures us a place in His kingdom forevermore. *Heavenly Father, hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who do me violence. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-13: The great and mighty works of God

Here is a look ahead to Sunday morning! Our Lord promised that in His going away, He would send us the Holy Spirit. This text reminds us that the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian does not consist of speaking in gibberish that none can understand. Instead, the Holy Spirit is at work pointing people to the great and mighty works of God—His work of salvation done on behalf of His people. St. Peter's sermon, which dominates the rest of Acts 2, tells of God's mightiest work: the salvation accomplished for us all by the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. *Heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, so that we may believe Your Word and live a godly life, both here in time and there in eternity. Amen.*

 **WORLDVIEW** Worldview Everlasting is pleased to bring you Around the Word devotions. E·V·E·R·L·A·S·T·I·N·G For more theological awesomeness visit [www.worldvieweverlasting.com](http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com).

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:25-27: Create in me a clean heart, O God

The Word of God is powerful. Here, Ezekiel shows us the might of God's Word. It kills us, reducing our hearts of evil to stone. It makes us alive again, implanting in us a new heart that desires to walk according to God's Word. When the Holy Spirit is implanted in us at Baptism, a new man is brought forth, just as surely as Christ is risen from the dead. Through repentance, the body of sin is put off, and by faith in the promises of God, the new man lives a life of righteousness and purity before God. *Heavenly Father, You have made me Your child in Holy Baptism and cleansed me of all sin. Grant me to daily arise and live before You in righteousness and purity forever. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26: Jesus Prays for the Unity of His Church

Unity in the Church is a thing to be desired; we even confess this in the Creed ("I believe in ONE...Church"). Here our Lord directs us to the true source of unity: the Apostolic Word—it is not negotiated by Church bureaucrats and committees. Through this Word, the Holy Spirit incorporates us into the body of believers across time and space, even spanning the gulf between heaven and earth. Perhaps even most mysteriously, it is in this unity of believers around God's Word that we are united to the Godhead, even as the Father and the Son are one, so also are we united together with Him. *Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29-39: Predestined, Called, Justified, and Glorified

As Christians, we rejoice in the comfort of knowing that God has chosen us for salvation before time began. This is made known to us here in time, as God calls us His own in the waters of Holy Baptism. There, we are justified—declared not guilty of our sins for Christ's sake and given the promise of the resurrection in a glorified body. It is by this unassailable truth that we walk through this vale of tears, knowing that God is with us in all suffering. By joining Himself to us in Baptism, He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. *Heavenly Father, grant me to trust in the unfailing promises of Christ by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 97: The Foundation of God's Throne

God's unfettered glory is hidden from our mortal eyes. Sinners cannot look upon Holy God and live. But, as the psalmist reminds us, God's throne is founded upon righteousness and justice. These things are revealed to us out of the thick darkness and clouds as God reveals to us His true nature and disposition toward us in the Crucified Christ. There, God pours out the just condemnation for our sin and wins for us the only righteousness that can avail before Him. Thus we can rejoice in God's righteous judgments, for in Christ, we have already passed through the judgment into life. *Heavenly Father, preserve us from the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, so that we may rejoice in Your salvation. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal and are brought to you by Worldview Everlasting ([www.worldvieweverlasting.com](http://www.worldvieweverlasting.com)). Visit [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org) to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email [bryan@aroundthewordjournal.com](mailto:bryan@aroundthewordjournal.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](http://sanctus.org) and [lutheran-hymnal.com](http://lutheran-hymnal.com) for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is **Rev. Jordan McKinley**, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vallonia, IN ([trinityvallonia.com](http://trinityvallonia.com)). He lives in Brownstown with his wife, Andrea, and their three children.