



“The Lord’s Call to Repentance”

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 1-7, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: **The Lord's Call to Repentance**

Praise the Lord that He doesn't give us what we deserve. The wages of sin, after all, is death. No, the Lord hands His Son over to sin and death for us, so that He might give us life and hope, peace and forgiveness. He delivers us from every evil, and calls us to live before Him in His kingdom, under His protection. He is our Shepherd and our Shield who is struck and beaten to protect us. He uses His might not to destroy us, but to keep us, and all of this is done without any merit or worthiness in me. God be praised!

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 20:1-16 Undeserved Mercy**

"That's not fair!" Surely this is what the workers who labored through the day were thinking. "It's not fair that we worked twelve hours, and they worked one, and we are paid the same." True. It isn't fair. This is the point Jesus is making. The eternal inheritance which He gives to His children is not fair. Our salvation is not a fair payment for the work we've done. If God were to give us what we deserve we would receive eternal death. The wages of sin, after all, is death. Salvation is God's gift, and we have it purely by the grace of God in Christ. Jesus has born the heat of the day, and done the work for us. *O Lord, we thank You that Your eye toward us is good, and that You, in mercy, give us what we could never deserve: eternal life. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 23 Not Abandoned to Death**

Perhaps the most frightening thing in this life is when you are forced to confront the darkness of death, when you are forced to look up and see the shadow cast over all creation, and to realize that it comes for all, rich/poor, great/small, that it is no respecter of persons. And in this, there is the temptation to believe that we are alone. But David reminds us that the Lord does not abandon us, even in death. "I will fear no evil, for You are with me." The Lord walks through this valley of death with us, and in fact, ahead of us. His are the steps we follow, into the grave, and back out. The Lord has not abandoned us to death, but has tasted it for us, that it would no longer hold us captive or cause us fear. *Lord, thank You for defeating death for me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Certainty or Security?**

It is good to be certain of salvation because you are confident in the promises of Christ. It is bad to be secure in your sins because of them. In fact, such a person is rejecting those promises. Relying on yourself—this world's gospel—will disqualify you every time. St. Paul recognizes that he is not owed anything for being an apostle. Moses and the chosen fathers of Israel were not entitled to salvation either. An undisciplined life will turn your eyes away from the prize, the Rock: Christ, in whom there is every certainty. *Lord, be pleased with us in Christ, and keep our faith fixed in Him alone. Amen.*

**WED****SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 1:4-10 The Building and Planting Word**

The Lord puts His word in Jeremiah's mouth "to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (1:10). The Lord's word does all these things. It breaks and binds. It kills and makes alive. It roots out and it plants. Note the order. We normally think like this: we live and then we die. But with the Lord's word the order is reversed: we die and then we live. Law first, and then Gospel. Contrition first, and then faith. The Lord's word shows us how we truly deserve God's wrath, and then it shows us God's mercy in Christ. This is the rooting and the planting, and we rejoice in it. *O Lord God, build and plant us with Your enlivening word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**THU****SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30 Burying What God Gives**

The blessings which the Lord gives are meant to be used. The wicked servant buries the talent given him out of fear and unbelief. Such an unbelieving servant is like a talent buried and kept in the ground - good for nothing. God's gifts are to produce fruit for the kingdom. The word of God which you have heard, like the talent, is not to be buried in your heart never to see daylight, but is to be spread abroad in your life and conversation. Your words, money, influence, energy, prayers, are all talents which God intends to be used with Christian love for the good of your neighbor. If you have gifts (and you do) don't bury them. For in God's economy what you spend you never lose. *Lord, help me to give my talents, trusting in Your mercy. Amen.*

**FRI****SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-34 Don't Just Capitalize the "G," Receive the Resurrection**

It's not ok that the "unknown god" stay unknown. Paul doesn't just capitalize the G. He corrects the doctrine. The crowd stays with him while he talks about stone idols. They even seem ok with the idea that they should repent before the Day of Judgment. It's the Resurrection that pushed them over the top. Every religion has laws and doctrines, even the ones with a lowercase g. Every religion has law. Christianity has Gospel: Christ crucified and raised to forgive you your sins and bring you to the resurrection to life eternal. The world stumbles on this truth. We believe and rejoice. *O Risen Lord, fix our eyes upon Your sacrifice and resurrection, and let it always be preached to a world that does not yet know You. Amen.*

**SAT****SCRIPTURE: Psalm 114 God Goes With Them**

This is a very brief and poetic Psalm whose poetry comes out well in our English. The Children of Israel were led by the Lord who went with them. The sea fled—both the Red Sea and all the people living near it: the Jordan turned back also, as the priests bore the ark into the promised land on dry ground. God brought water out of the Rock (Christ) in the desert. Israel conquered their land. But who, indeed, caused all these places, rivers, and peoples to tremble? Not Israel, but the Holy One in their midst. *Lord, go with us and comfort us by Your presence. Amen.*

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## 5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 85:5-6; 18:1-2, 27, 32, 49

The sorrows of Sheol sur- | rounded me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the Lord,\*  
He heard my voice from His | temple.  
I will love You, O | Lord, my strength.\*  
The Lord is my rock and my | fortress.  
For You will save the humble | people,\*  
but will bring down | haughty looks.  
It is God who arms | me with strength,\*  
and makes my way | perfect.  
Therefore I will give thanks to | You, O Lord,\*  
and sing praises | to Your name.

## 6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 23:6

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

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

## 8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we implore You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, 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

### Salvation Unto Us Has Come

TLH 377, LSB 555

Paul Speratus



1. Salvation unto us has come  
By God's free grace and favor;  
Good works cannot avert our doom,  
They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,  
Who did for all the world atone;  
He is our one Redeemer.
6. Since Christ hath full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.  
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.