



*Love's*  
REDEEMING WORK  
*is done*

SPRING DEVOTIONAL  
2025  
QUARTER TWO



POPLAR GROVE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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# INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been designed for use in personal devotion time or as a guide for family worship. It contains a combination of the following six elements: Praise, Hymn, Scripture Reading, Confession of Sin, Assurance of Forgiveness, and Response. We have also added the element of Scriptural Creeds on the Character of the Church, since this booklet corresponds with the Doctrine of Ecclesiology; each of these scriptures come from a biblical text in which the author refers to the character of the church, many of which are Paul's opening greetings in his epistles, a part of the text which we often overlook but which has immense theological import. In the Scripture reading for this booklet, we have included texts from four places: a chapter from each of the Law, the Psalms, the Proverbs, and the Epistles.

The overall goal of this booklet is to encourage Christian spiritual formation; this is accomplished, with the help of the Holy Spirit, through reading Scripture, reading and praying the prayers and hymns of Christian fathers and other heroes of the faith, and actively responding to what has been read with the aid of written prompts. Blank space is provided for journaling, observations on the text, prayer requests, answered prayers, and noting "God-winks," or themes and ideas God seems to be drawing your attention to. It is our prayer that hearts are transformed into the likeness of Christ as we read, pray, study, and respond to His Word.

Please note: The title of this booklet, "Love's Redeeming Work is Done," is taken from a verse in the hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." This hymn is the hymn associated with this quarter's booklet. Though it is not an assigned element in any of the days, the hope is that, when you have time, you will sing this hymn as part of your devotional time with the Lord. The hymnal page is included in the back of this booklet.

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but  
because by it I see everything else."  
— C.S. Lewis

"I can rest securely, while I lay my head on Christ's bleeding side."  
— Augustine

# **Day One | April 1**

## **Praise**

How shall I praise th' eternal God,  
That infinite Unknown?  
Who can ascend His high abode,  
Or venture near His throne?

The great Invisible! He dwells  
Conceal'd in dazzling light;  
But His all-searching eye reveals  
The secrets of the night.

Those watchful eyes, that never sleep,  
Survey the world around;  
His wisdom is a boundless deep,  
Where all our thoughts are drown'd.

Isaac Watts (1709)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Joshua 9-13

Luke 16

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord, deprive me not of Thy heavenly joys. Lord, deliver me from eternal torments. Lord, if I have sinned in mind or thought, in word or deed, forgive me. Lord, deliver me from all ignorance, forgetfulness, cowardice and stony insensibility. Lord, deliver me from every temptation. Lord, enlighten my heart which evil desires have darkened. Lord, I being human have sinned, but Thou being the generous God, have mercy on me, knowing the sickness of my soul. Lord, send Thy grace to my help, that I may glorify Thy holy Name. Lord Jesus Christ, write me Thy servant in the Book of Life, and grant me a good end. O Lord my God, even though I have done nothing good in Thy sight, yet grant me by Thy grace to make a good start. Lord, sprinkle into my heart the dew of Thy grace. Lord of heaven and earth remember me, Thy sinful servant, shameful and unclean, in Thy Kingdom. Amen.

John Chrysostom (347-407)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Happy the man to whom his God  
No more imputes his sin;  
But, wash'd in the Redeemer's blood,  
Hath made his garments clean!

Happy beyond expression he,  
Whose debts are thus discharged;  
And from the guilty bondage free,  
He feels his soul enlarged.

While I my inward guilt suppress'd  
No quiet could I find;  
Thy wrath lay burning in my breast,  
And rack'd my tortured mind.

Then I confess'd my troubled thoughts,  
My secret sins reveal'd;  
Thy pardoning grace forgave my faults,  
Thy grace my pardon seal'd.

This shall invite Thy saints to pray;  
When, like a raging flood,  
Temptations rise, our strength and stay  
Is a forgiving God.

Isaac Watts (1719)\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Two | April 2**

## **Praise**

Jehovah reigns! His throne is high;  
His robes are light and majesty;  
His glory shines with beams so bright,  
No mortal can sustain the sight.

His terrors keep the world in awe;  
His justice guards His holy law;  
His love reveals a smiling face;  
His truth and promise seal the grace.

Isaac Watts (1709)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Joshua 14-17

Luke 17

## **Confession of Sin**

Hear, Lord, my prayer; let not my soul faint under Thy discipline, nor let me faint in confessing unto Thee all Thy mercies whereby Thou hast drawn me out of all my most evil ways, that Thou mightest become a delight to me above all the allurements which I once pursued; that I may most entirely love Thee, and clasp Thy hand with all my affections, and Thou mayest yet rescue me from every temptation, even unto the end. For lo, O Lord, my King and my God, for Thy service be whatever useful thing my childhood learned; for Thy service that I speak, write, read, reckon. For Thou didst grant me Thy discipline while I was learning vanities; and my sin of delighting in those vanities Thou hast forgiven. In them, indeed, I learnt many a useful word, but these may as well be learned in things not vain; and that is the safe path for the steps of youth. Amen.

Augustine (354-430)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and

many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:41-47

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?



# **Day Three | April 3**

## **Praise**

The Lord is King; lift up thy voice,  
O earth, and all ye heavens rejoice:  
From world to world the joy shall ring,  
The Lord Omnipotent is King.

Josiah Conder (1824)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Joshua 18-21

Psalm 15

Luke 18

## **Confession of Sin**

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.

Psalm 51:1-4

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

But may we prize the light of thy smile, implore the joy of thy salvation, find our heaven in thee. Thou hast attended to our happiness more than we can do; though we are fallen creatures thou hast not neglected us. In love and pity thou hast provided us a Savior; apply his redemption to our hearts, by justifying our persons, and sanctifying our natures. We confess our transgressions, have mercy on us. We are weary, give us rest; ignorant, make us wise unto salvation; helpless, let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness; poor and needy, bless us with Christ's unsearchable riches; perplexed and tempted, let us travel on unchecked, undismayed, knowing that thou hast said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' Blessed be thy name!

The Valley of Vision\*\*

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Four | April 4**

## **Praise**

O come, loud anthems let us sing;  
Give thanks to our Almighty King;  
For we our voices high should raise,  
When our salvation's Rock we praise.

Yea, let us stand before His face  
To thank Him for His matchless grace;  
To Him address, in joyful songs,  
The praise that to His name belongs.

For God, the Lord, enthroned in state,  
Is with unrivall'd glory great:  
The strength of earth is in His hand.  
He made the sea, and fix'd the land.

Oh, let us to His courts repair,  
And bow with adoration there;  
Down on our knees devoutly all  
Before the Lord our Maker fall.

Tate and Brady, 1696

## **Scripture Reading**

Joshua 22-24

Psalm 116

Luke 19

## **Confession of Sin**

O most sweet and loving Lord, you know my weaknesses, and the needs I endure. You know how many evils and sins I am involved in; how often I am weighed down, tempted, and disturbed by them. I ask for your consolation and support. I speak to you, for you know all things, to you all my inward thoughts are open, and you alone can perfectly comfort and help me. You know what things I stand in most need of. Behold, I stand before you poor and naked, calling for grace, and imploring mercy. Refresh your hungry supplicant, kindle my coldness with

the fire of your love, enlighten my blindness with the brightness of your presence. Do not let me go away from you hungry and dry, but deal mercifully with me, as you always deal wonderfully with your saints.

Thomas à Kempis (1379-1471)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool. If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land."

Isaiah 1:16-19

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Five | April 5**

### **Praise**

Great Former of this various frame,  
Our souls adore Thine awful name,  
And bow and tremble, while they praise  
The Ancient of eternal days.

Before Thine infinite survey,  
Creation rose as yesterday;  
And as tomorrow shall Thine eye  
See earth and stars in ruin lie.

Our days a transient period run,  
And change with every circling sun;  
And while to lengthen'd years we trust,  
Before the moth we sink to dust.

But let the creatures fall around;  
Let death consign us to the ground,  
Let the last general flame arise,  
And melt the arches of the skies;

Calm as the summer's ocean we  
Can all the wreck of nature see;  
While grace secures us an abode  
Unshaken as the throne of God.

Philip Doddridge (1755)\*

### **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

### **Confession of Sin**

You, O Lord, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me. For evils beyond number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; they are more numerous than the hairs of my head, and my heart has failed me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; Make haste, O Lord, to help me.

Psalm 40:11-13

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

But Thine illustrious sacrifice  
Hath answer'd these demands;  
And peace and pardon from the skies  
Come down by Jesus' hands.

Here all the ancient types agree,  
The altar and the Lamb;  
And prophets in their visions see  
Salvation through His name.

'Tis by Thy death, we live, O Lord;  
'Tis on Thy cross we rest;  
For ever be Thy love adored,  
Thy name for ever bless'd.

Isaac Watts\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Six | April 6**

### **Praise**

Great God, Thy penetrating eye  
Pervades my inmost powers;  
With awe profound my wondering soul  
Falls prostrate, and adores.

To be encompass'd round with God,  
The holy and the just;  
Arm'd with omnipotence to save,  
Or crush me into dust!

Oh, how tremendous is the thought!  
Deep may it be impress'd!  
And may the Spirit firmly grave  
This truth within my breast!

By Thee observed, by Thee upheld,  
Let earth or hell oppose,  
I'll press with dauntless courage on,  
And dare the proudest foes.

Begirt with Thee, my fearless soul  
The gloomy vale shall tread;  
And Thou wilt bind th' immortal crown  
Of glory round my head.

Elizabeth Scott (1764)\*

### **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

### **Confession of Sin**

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of thy brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom. All our desire is known unto thee, therefore perfect what thou hast begun, and what thy Spirit has awakened us

to ask in prayer. We seek thy face, turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.

Augustine (354-430)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him. For, you people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will certainly be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. Although the Lord has given you bread of deprivation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher, will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will see your Teacher. Your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Isaiah 30:18-21

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?



# **Day Seven | April 7**

## **Praise**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
God of hosts, in heaven adored,  
Earth with awe has heard Thy name,  
Men Thy majesty proclaim.

Just and true are all Thy ways,  
Great Thy works above our praise;  
Humbled in the dust, we own,  
Thou art holy, Thou alone.

In Thy sight the angel band,  
Justly charged with folly stand,  
Holiest deeds of creatures lie  
Meritless before Thine eye.

How shall sinners worship Thee,  
God of spotless purity?  
To Thy grace all hope we owe;  
Thine own righteousness bestow.

Basil Manly (1850)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Judges 1-3

Psalm 16

Luke 20

## **Confession of Sin**

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust, do not let me be ashamed; do not let my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed. Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day. Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according

to Your lovingkindness remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

Psalm 25:1-7

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy, I could not live here,  
Sin soon would reduce me to utter despair;  
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

The door of Thy mercy stands open all day.  
To the poor and the needy, who knock by the way;  
No sinner shall ever be empty sent back,  
Who comes seeking mercy for Jesus's sake.

Thy mercy in Jesus exempts me from hell;  
Its glories I'll sing, and its wonders I'll tell;  
'Twas Jesus, my friend, when He hung on the tree,  
That open'd the channel of mercy for me.

Great Father of mercies! Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine!

John Stocker (1776)\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Eight | April 8**

## **Praise**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord!  
Be Thy glorious name adored:  
Lord, Thy mercies never fail;  
Hail, celestial Goodness, hail!

Though unworthy, Lord, Thine ear,  
Deign our humble songs to hear;  
Purer praise we hope to bring,  
When around Thy throne we sing.

There no tongue shall silent be,  
All shall join in harmony;  
That through heaven's capacious round  
Praise to Thee may ever sound.

Lord, Thy mercies never fail:  
Hail, celestial Goodness, hail!  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!  
Be Thy glorious name adored.

Benjamin Williams (1778)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Judges 4-6  
Luke 21

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord God and Master of my life, take away from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and cheap talk. Replace it with your Spirit of faithfulness, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, help me to see my own fault and sin, and not to judge my brother. Blessed are You, for all eternity. Amen.

St. Ephraim of Syria (324-373)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:21-26

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Nine | April 9**

### **Praise**

Praise, everlasting praise, be paid  
To Him that earth's foundation laid;  
Praise to the God, whose strong decrees  
Sway the creation as He please.

Praise to the goodness of the Lord,  
Who rules His people by His word;  
And there, as strong as His decrees,  
He sets His kindest promises.

Isaac Watts (1709)\*

### **Scripture Reading**

Judges 7-8  
Luke 22

### **Confession of Sin**

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. For You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.

Psalms 139:1-14

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Gracious God,

My heart praises thee for the wonder of thy love in Jesus; He is heaven's darling, but is for me the incarnate, despised, rejected, crucified sin-bearer; in him thy grace has almost out-graced itself, in him thy love to rebels has reached its height; O to love thee with a love like this! My heart is stone, melt it with thy love, my heart is locked, let thy love be the master key to open it; O Father, I adore thee for thy great love in the gift of Jesus, O Jesus, I bless thee for resigning thy life for me, O Holy Spirit, I thank thee for revealing to me this mystery; Great God, let thy Son see in me the travail of his soul!

The Valley of Vision\*\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Ten | April 10**

## **Praise**

Begin, my tongue, some heavenly theme,  
And speak some boundless thing;  
The mighty works, or mightier name  
Of our eternal King.

Tell of His wondrous faithfulness,  
And sound His power abroad;  
Sing the sweet promise of His grace,  
And the performing God.

Proclaim Salvation from the Lord,  
For wretched, dying men:  
His hand has writ the sacred word  
With an immortal pen.

Isaac Watts (1709)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Judges 9-11

Psalm 17

Luke 23

## **Confession of Sin**

O my dearest Lord Jesus Christ, you know my poor soul and my great transgressions, and I cry out to you alone with an open heart. I am sorry that I do not have will or intentions as I should and I fall behind daily, for I am a poor, sick sinner. You know that I want to have good will and good intentions, but my foe strikes and leads me captive. Redeem me, a poor sinner, according to your divine will. Deliver me from all evil and all afflictions. Strengthen and increase in me true Christian faith. Give me grace to faithfully love my neighbor as myself with all my heart, and to love him as a brother. Give me patience and perseverance in all persecution and trouble. You told St. Peter not to forgive only seven times, and you have called us to come to you for consolation. So I come with the assurance of what you have pledged, and I cry to you as my true Pastor and Bishop of my soul in all my needs. You alone know how and when I need your help.

Your will be done, and your name be praised forever. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:4-10

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?



# **Day Eleven | April 11**

## **Praise**

How oft have sin and Satan strove  
To rend my soul from Thee, my God!  
But everlasting is Thy love,  
And Jesus seals it with His blood.

The oath and promise of the Lord  
Join to confirm the wond'rous grace;  
Eternal power performs the word,  
And fills all heaven with endless praise.

Amidst temptations sharp and long,  
My soul to this dear refuge flies;  
Hope is my anchor, firm and strong,  
While tempests blow, and billows rise.

The gospel bears my spirit up;  
A faithful and unchanging God  
Lays the foundation for my hope  
In oaths, and promises, and blood.

Isaac Watts (1709)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

Judges 12-16

Psalms 146

Luke 24

## **Confession of Sin**

And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have been wicked. O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around

us. So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary. O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.

Daniel 9:15-19

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Twelve | April 12**

## **Praise**

God is love, His mercy brightens  
All the path in which we rove;  
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens;  
God is wisdom, God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever,  
Man decays, and ages move;  
But His mercy waneth never;  
God is wisdom, God is love.

E'en the hour that darkest seemeth  
Will His changeless goodness prove:  
From the mist His brightness streameth,  
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth  
Hope and comfort from above;  
Everywhere His glory shineth;  
God is wisdom, God is love.

John Bowring (1825)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord, I commit my failures as well as my successes into your hands, and I bring for your healing the people and the situations, the wrongs and the hurts of the past. Give me courage, strength and generosity to let go and move on, leaving the past behind me, and living the present to the full. Lead me always to be positive as I entrust the past to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your providence.

Augustine (354-430)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

For there is power in the blood of Calvary to destroy sins more than can be counted even by one from the choir of heaven. Thou hast given me a hill-side spring that washes clear and white, and I go as a sinner to its waters, bathing without hindrance in its crystal streams. At the cross there is free forgiveness for poor and meek ones, and ample blessings that last forever; the blood of the Lamb is like a great river of infinite grace with never any diminishing of its fullness as thirsty ones without number drink of it.

### **The Valley of Vision\*\***

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Thirteen | April 13**

## **Praise**

Ye humble souls, approach your God  
With songs of sacred praise,  
For He is good, immensely good,  
And kind are all His ways.

Anne Steele (1760)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

## **Confession of Sin**

Incline Your ear, O LORD, and answer me; for I am afflicted and needy. Preserve my soul, for I am a godly man; O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to You I cry all day long. Make glad the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.

Psalms 86:1-5

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

## **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Fourteen | April 14**

### **Praise**

LORD Jesus, are we one with Thee?  
Oh height! Oh depth of love!  
With Thee we died upon the tree,  
In Thee we live above.

Such was Thy grace, that for our sake  
Thou didst from heaven come down,  
Thou didst of flesh and blood partake,  
In all our sorrows one.

Our sins, our guilt, in love divine,  
Confess'd and borne by Thee;  
The gall, the curse, the wrath were Thine,  
To set Thy members free.

Ascended now, in glory bright,  
Still one with us Thou art;  
Nor life, nor death, nor depth, nor height,  
Thy saints and Thee can part.

Oh teach us, Lord, to know and own  
This wondrous mystery,  
That Thou with us art truly one,  
And we are one with Thee!

Soon, soon shall come that glorious day,  
When, seated on Thy throne,  
Thou shalt to wondering worlds display,  
That Thou with us art one!

James George Deck, 1837

### **Scripture Reading**

Judges 17-18

Psalm 21

Acts 1

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, all merciful: Light within me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away this heart of stone and give a heart of flesh and blood, a heart to love and adore you, a heart which may delight in you, love you and praise you, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (339-397)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Crimes of such horror to forgive,  
Such guilty, daring worms to spare;  
This is Thy grand prerogative,  
And none shall in the honor share:  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee?  
Or who has grace so rich and free?

In wonder lost, with trembling joy  
We take the pardon of our God;  
Pardon for crimes of deepest dye;  
A pardon bought with Jesus' blood;  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee?  
Or who has grace so rich and free?

Oh may this strange, this matchless grace,  
This God-like miracle of love,  
Fill the wide earth with grateful praise,  
And all th' angelic choirs above;  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee?  
Or who has grace so rich and free?

Samuel Davies (1723-1761)\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Fifteen | April 15**

## **Praise**

Dear Savior, I am Thine  
By everlasting bands;  
My name, my heart, I would resign;  
My soul is in Thy hands.

To Thee I still would cleave  
With ever-growing zeal:  
If millions tempt me Christ to leave,  
They never shall prevail.

His Spirit shall unite  
My soul to Him my Head;  
Shall form me to His image bright,  
And teach His path to tread.

Death may my soul divide  
From this abode of clay;  
But love shall keep me near Thy side  
Through all the gloomy way.

Since Christ and we are one,  
Why should we doubt or fear?  
If He in heaven hath fix'd His throne,  
He'll fix His members there.

Philip Doddridge, 1755

## **Scripture Reading**

Judges 19-21

Acts 2



### **Confession of Sin**

I pray for all those whom I have in any way grieved, vexed, oppressed, or scandalized, by word or deed, knowingly or unknowingly, that you may forgive all our sins and offences against each other. Take away, O Lord, from our hearts all suspiciousness, indignation, anger, and contention, and whatever is calculated to wound charity or to lessen love of others. Have mercy on me, O Lord, have mercy on all who seek your mercy; give grace to the needy, make us so to live that we may be found worthy to enjoy the fulfillment of your grace and attain to eternal life.

Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Buried in sorrow and in sin,  
At hell's dark door we lay;  
But we arise, by grace divine,  
To see a heavenly day.

Isaac Watts, 1709

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Sixteen | April 16**

## **Praise**

My God, permit me not to be  
A stranger to myself and Thee;  
Amidst a thousand thoughts I rove,  
Forgetful of my highest love.

Why should my passions mix with earth,  
And thus debase my heavenly birth?  
Why should I cleave to things below,  
And let my God, my Saviour, go?

Call me away from flesh and sense;  
One sovereign word can draw me thence;  
I would obey the voice divine,  
And all inferior joys resign.

Be earth with all her scenes withdrawn;  
Let noise and vanity be gone:  
In secret silence of the mind  
My heaven, and there my God, I find.

Isaac Watts, 1709

## **Scripture Reading**

Ruth 1-2

Acts 3

## **Confession of Sin**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse our hearts, by the breath of Your Holy Spirit, that we may fully love You, and praise well Your holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gregory The Great (540-604)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

From Calvary's cross wave upon wave of grace  
reaches me,  
deals with my sin,  
washes me clean,  
renews my heart,  
strengthens my will,  
draws out my affection,  
kindles a flame in my soul,  
rules throughout my inner man,  
consecrates my every thought, word, work,  
teaches me thy immeasurable love.  
How great are my privileges in Christ Jesus!

### **The Valley of Vision\*\***

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Seventeen | April 17**

## **Praise**

When wilt Thou come unto me, Lord?  
Oh come, my Lord most dear!  
Come near, come nearer, nearer still,  
I'm blest when Thou art near.

When wilt Thou come unto me, Lord?  
I languish for the sight;  
Ten thousand suns when Thou art hid,  
Are shades instead of light.

When wilt Thou come unto me, Lord?  
Until Thou dost appear,  
I count each moment for a day,  
Each minute for a year.

There's no such thing as pleasure here,  
My Jesus is my all;  
As Thou dost shine or disappear,  
My pleasures rise or fall.

Come spread Thy savour on my frame.  
No sweetness is so sweet;  
Till I get up to sing Thy name,  
Where all Thy singers meet.

Thomas Shepherd, 1692

## **Scripture Reading**

Ruth 3-4

Psalm 37

Acts 4

### **Confession of Sin**

LORD, Thou hast won, at length I yield;  
My heart, by mighty grace compell'd,  
Surrenders all to Thee;  
Against Thy terrors long I strove,  
But who can stand against Thy love?  
Love conquers even me.

If Thou hadst hid Thy thunders roll,  
And lightnings flash, to blast my soul,  
I still had stubborn been;  
But mercy has my heart subdued,  
A bleeding Saviour I have view'd,  
And now I hate my sin.

Now, Lord, I would be Thine alone,  
Come, take possession of Thine own,  
For Thou hast set me free;  
Released from Satan's hard command,  
See all my members waiting stand,  
To be employ'd by Thee.

John Newton, 1779

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Tw'as mercy fill'd the throne,  
And wrath stood silent by,  
When Christ was sent with pardons down  
To rebels doom'd to die.

Now, sinners, dry your tears,  
Let hopeless sorrows cease;  
Bow to the sceptre of His love,  
And take the offer'd peace.

Isaac Watts, 1709

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Eighteen | April 18**

## **Praise**

Ever to the Saviour cling,  
Trust in Him and none beside;  
Never let an earthly thing  
Hide from thee the Crucified.

Ever cast on Him thy care,  
He invites thee so to do;  
Never let thy soul despair,  
He will surely help thee through.

Ever live as in the view  
Of the day of glory, near;  
Never be to Christ untrue,  
Thou shalt soon His glory share.

Albert Midlane, 1864

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 1-2  
Psalm 120  
Acts 5

## **Confession of Sin**

Am I call'd? and can it be!  
Has my Saviour chosen me?  
Guilty, wretched as I am,  
Has He named my worthless name?  
Vilest of the vile am I,  
Dare I raise my hopes so high?

Am I call'd? I dare not stay,  
May not, must not disobey;  
Here I lay me at Thy feet,  
Clinging to the mercy-seat:

Thine I am, and Thine alone;  
Lord, with me Thy will be done.

Am I call'd? what shall I bring,  
As an offering to my King?  
Poor, and blind, and naked I,  
Trembling at Thy footstool lie;  
Nought but sin I call my own,  
Nor for sin can sin atone.

Am I call'd? an heir of God!  
Wash'd, redeem'd, by precious blood!  
Father, lead me in Thy hand,  
Guide me to that better land,  
Where my soul shall be at rest,  
Pillow'd on my Saviour's breast.

Mrs. J. L. Gray, 1843

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Oh, had He not pitied the state you were in, sin,  
Your bosom His love had ne'er felt;  
You all would have lived, would have died too in  
And sunk with the load of your guilt.

What was there in you that could merit esteem,  
Or give the Creator delight?  
"'Twas even so, Father," you ever must sing,  
"Because it seem'd good in Thy sight."

'Twas all of Thy grace we were brought to obey,  
While others were suffer'd to go  
The road which by nature we chose as our way,  
Which leads to the regions of woe.

Then give all the glory to His holy name, fame,  
To Him all the glory belongs;  
Be yours the high joy still to sound forth His  
And crown Him in each of your songs.

George Keith (1787)\*



**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Nineteen | April 19**

## **Praise**

Oh might this worthless heart of mine,  
The Saviour's temple be!  
Emptied of every love but Thine,  
And shut to all but Thee!

I long to find Thy presence there,  
I long to see Thy face;  
Almighty Lord, my heart prepare  
The Saviour to embrace.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1759

## **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord God, come quickly and reign on Your throne within me! For something rises and tries to take possession of your throne; pride, greed, uncleanness and laziness want to be my kings. And then evil-words, anger, hatred, and a whole band of evil join the war trying to rule me. I resist them, I cry out against them. I say "I have no other King than Christ." Christ, King of Peace, come and reign on the throne of my heart. I will have no other King than You! Amen.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott, 1836

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty | April 20**

### **Praise**

Begone, unbelief, my Savior is near,  
And for my relief will surely appear;  
By prayer let me wrestle, and He will perform,  
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.

Though dark be my way, since He is my guide,  
'Tis mine to obey, 'tis His to provide;  
Though cisterns be broken, and creatures all fail,  
The word He has spoken shall surely prevail.

His love in time past forbids me to think  
He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink;  
Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review,  
Confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through.

Determined to save, He watch'd o'er my path  
When, Satan's blind slave, I sported with death:  
And can He have taught me to trust in His name,  
And thus far have brought me to put me to shame?

Why should I complain of want or distress,  
Temptation or pain? He told me no less;  
The heirs of salvation, I know from His word,  
Through much tribulation must follow their Lord.

How bitter that cup no heart can conceive,  
Which He drank quite up, that sinners might live!  
His way was much rougher and darker than mine;  
Did Christ, my Lord, suffer, and shall I repine?

Since all that I meet shall work for my good,  
The bitter is sweet, the medicine is food;  
Though painful at present 'twill cease before long,  
And then, oh how pleasant the conqueror's song!

John Newton, 1779

## **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

### **Confession of Sin**

O LORD, my God, in mercy turn,  
In mercy hear a sinner mourn!  
To Thee I call, to Thee I cry,  
Oh leave me, leave me not to die!

O pleasures past, what are ye now  
But thorns about my bleeding brow!  
Spectres that hover round my brain,  
And aggravate and mock my pain.

For pleasure I have given my soul;  
Now justice, let Thy thunders roll!  
Now vengeance smite, and with a blow  
Lay the rebellious ingrate low!

Yet Jesus, Jesus! there I'll cling,  
I'll crowd beneath His sheltering wing;  
I'll clasp the cross, and holding there,  
Even me, oh bliss! His wrath may spare.

Henry Kirke White, 1807

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

My lot is to approach thee with godly fear and humble confidence, for thy condescension equals thy grandeur, and thy goodness is thy glory. I am unworthy, but thou dost welcome; guilty, but thou art merciful; indigent, but thy riches are unsearchable. Thou hast shown boundless compassion towards me by not sparing thy Son, and by giving me freely all things in him; this is the foundation of my hope, the refuge of my safety, the new and living way to thee, the means of that conviction of sin, brokenness of heart, and self-despair, which will endear to me the gospel. Happy are they who are Christ's, in him at peace with thee, justified from all things, delivered from coming wrath, made heirs of future glory.

The Valley of Vision\*\*

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Twenty-One| April 21**

## **Praise**

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;  
Never shall His promise fail;  
God hath made His saints victorious;  
Sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation,  
Hosts on high His power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify His name.

Richard Mant (1809)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 3-5  
Psalm 23  
Acts 6

## **Confession of Sin**

Then Job answered the LORD and said, I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." 'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.' "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:1-7

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Proverbs 28:13

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?



# **Day Twenty-Two|April 22**

## **Praise**

The Lord is King; who then shall dare  
Resist His will, distrust His care,  
Or murmur at His wise decrees,  
Or doubt His royal promises?

The Lord is King; child of the dust,  
The Judge of all the earth is just:  
Holy and true are all His ways,  
Let every creature speak His praise.

Josiah Conder (1824)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 6-8  
Acts 7

## **Confession of Sin**

Jesus, my feet are dirty. Come even as a slave to me, pour water into your bowl, come and wash my feet. In asking such a thing I know I am overbold, but I dread what was threatened when you said to me, "If I do not wash your feet I have no fellowship with you." Wash my feet then, because I long for your companionship.

Origen (185–254)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Father, 'twas Thy love that knew us  
Earth's foundations long before:  
That same love to Jesus drew us  
By its sweet constraining power,  
And will keep us  
Safely now, and evermore.

God of love, our souls adore Thee!  
We would still Thy grace proclaim,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
And in glory praise Thy name:  
Hallelujah!  
Be to God and to the Lamb!

James George Deck (1837)\*

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Three|April 23**

### **Praise**

Lord, let me see Thy beauteous face!  
It yields a heaven below;  
And angels round the throne will say,  
'Tis all the heaven they know.

A glimpse—a single glimpse of Thee,  
Would more delight my soul  
Than this vain world, with all its joys,  
Could I possess the whole.

Beddome and Rippon, 1800

### **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 9-10

Acts 8

### **Confession of Sin**

Prostrate, dear Jesus, at Thy feet  
A guilty rebel lies;  
And upwards to Thy mercy-seat  
Presumes to lift his eyes.

Oh let not justice frown me hence;  
Stay, stay, the vengeful storm:  
Forbid it that Omnipotence  
Should crush a feeble worm!

If tears of sorrow would suffice  
To pay the debt I owe,  
Tears should from both my weeping eyes  
In ceaseless torrents flow.

But no such sacrifice I plead  
To expiate my guilt;

No tears but those which Thou hast shed!  
No blood, but Thou hast spilt.

Think of Thy sorrows, dearest Lord,  
And all my sins forgive:  
Justice will well approve the word  
That bids the sinner live.

Samuel Stennett, 1787

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Oh teach me, Lord, this grace to own,  
That self and sin no more are known;  
That love—Thy love—in wondrous right,  
Hath placed me in its spotless light!

Joseph Denham Smith, 1860

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

# **Day Twenty-Four|April 24**

## **Praise**

O enter then His temple-gate,  
Thence to His courts devoutly press,  
And still your grateful hymns repeat,  
And still His name with praises bless.

For He's the Lord, supremely good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth, which always firmly stood,  
To endless ages shall endure.

Tate and Brady (1696)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 11-13

Psalm 38

Acts 9

## **Confession of Sin**

Lord God, come quickly and reign on Your throne within me! For something rises and tries to take possession of your throne; pride, greed, uncleanness and laziness want to be my kings. And then evil-words, anger, hatred, and a whole band of evil join the war trying to rule me. I resist them, I cry out against them. I say "I have no other King than Christ." Christ, King of Peace, come and reign on the throne of my heart. I will have no other King than You! Amen.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Our beauty and our strength are fled,  
And we draw near to death;  
But Christ the Lord recalls the dead,  
With His almighty breath.

Madness by nature reigns within,  
The passions burn and rage;  
Till God's own Son, with skill divine,  
The inward fire assuage.

Isaac Watts, 1709

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Five | April 25**

### **Praise**

Look upon me, Lord, I pray Thee,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in mine;  
Thou hast sought me, Thou hast bought me,  
Only Thee to know I pine.  
Let me find Thee!  
Take my heart, and own me Thine!

Nought I ask for, nought I strive for,  
But Thy grace so rich and free;  
That Thou givest whom Thou lovest,  
And who truly cleave to Thee.  
Let me find Thee,  
He hath all things who hath Thee.

Joachim Neander, 1673

### **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 14  
Psalm 124  
Acts 10

### **Confession of Sin**

My Jesus! say what wretch has dared  
Thy sacred hands to bind?  
And who has dared to buffet so  
Thy face so meek and kind?

'Tis I have thus ungrateful been,  
Yet, Jesus, pity take!  
Oh, spare and pardon me, my Lord,  
For Thy sweet mercy's sake!

My Jesus! who with spittle vile  
Profaned Thy sacred brow?  
Or whose unpitying scourge has made  
Thy precious blood to flow?  
'Tis I have thus ungrateful been.

My Jesus! whose the hands that wove  
That cruel thorny crown?  
Who made that hard and heavy cross  
That weighs Thy shoulders down?  
'Tis I have thus ungrateful been.

My Jesus! who has mock'd Thy thirst  
With vinegar and gall?  
Who held the nails that pierced Thy hands,  
And made the hammer fall?  
'Tis I have thus ungrateful been.

My Jesus! say who dared to nail  
Those tender feet of Thine;  
And whose the arm that raised the lance  
To pierce that heart divine?  
'Tis I have thus ungrateful been.

And, Father! who has murder'd thus  
Thy loved and only One?  
Canst Thou forgive the blood-stain'd hand  
That robb'd Thee of Thy Son?

'Tis I have thus ungrateful been  
To Jesus and to Thee;  
Forgive me, Lord, for His sweet sake,  
And mercy grant to me.

Alphonso M. Liguori, 1769

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Proverbs 28:13



**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Six | April 26**

### **Praise**

And since His name we knew,  
How gracious has He been!  
What dangers has He led us through,  
What mercies have we seen!

Now through another year,  
Supported by His care,  
We raise our Ebenezer here,  
“The Lord has help’d thus far.”

John Newton (1779)\*

### **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

### **Confession of Sin**

Infinite grief! amazing woe!  
Behold my bleeding Lord!  
Hell and the Jews conspired His death,  
And used the Roman sword.

Oh, the sharp pangs of smarting pain  
My dear Redeemer bore,  
When knotty whips and rugged thorns  
His sacred body tore.

But knotty whips and rugged thorns  
In vain do I accuse;  
In vain I blame the Roman bands,  
And the more spiteful Jews.

’Twas you, my sins, my cruel sins,  
His chief tormentors were;  
Each of my crimes became a nail,  
And unbelief the spear.

'Twas you that pull'd the vengeance down  
Upon His guiltless head:  
Break, break, my heart, oh burst mine eyes!  
And let my sorrows bleed.

Strike, mighty grace, my flinty soul,  
Till melting waters flow,  
And deep repentance drown mine eyes  
In undissembled woe.

Isaac Watts, 1709

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD;" and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalms 32:5-7

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Seven | April 27**

### **Praise**

Yea, Lord, we wish to cast  
Our cares upon Thy breast,  
Help us to praise Thee for the past,  
And trust Thee for the rest.

John Newton (1779)\*

### **Scripture Reading**

WEEKEND CATCH-UP DAY

### **Confession of Sin**

Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 19:12-14

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Eight|April 28**

### **Praise**

Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see,  
And in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find,  
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name,  
O Saviour of mankind!

Oh, hope of every contrite heart!  
Oh, joy of all the meek!  
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!  
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah! this  
Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus—what it is,  
None but His loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be Thou,  
As Thou our crown wilt be;  
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,  
And through eternity.

Bernard of Clairvaux, 1153

### **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 15-16

1 Chr. 1

Psalms 39

Acts 11

### **Confession of Sin**

O Good Shepherd, seek me out, and bring me home to thy fold again. Deal favorably with me according to thy good pleasure, till I may dwell in thy house all the days of my life, and praise thee for ever and ever with them that are there.

Jerome (342 – 420)

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.\_

Charles Wesley (1738)\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

## **Day Twenty-Nine| April 29**

### **Praise**

I think of Thee, my God, by night,  
And talk of Thee by day,  
Thy love my treasure and delight,  
Thy truth my strength and stay.

The day is dark, the night is long,  
Unblest with thoughts of Thee,  
And dull to me the sweetest song,  
Unless its theme Thou be.

So all day long, and all the night,  
Lord, let Thy presence be,  
Mine air, my breath, my shade, my light,  
Myself absorb'd in Thee.

John S. B. Monsell, 1863

### **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 17  
1 Chr. 2  
Acts 12

### **Confession of Sin**

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:6-8

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD;" and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. Therefore, let everyone

who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; you surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalms 32:5-7

**Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?



# **Day Thirty | April 30**

## **Praise**

Now that the sun is beaming bright,  
Once more to God we pray,  
That He, the uncreated Light,  
May guide our souls this day.

No sinful word, nor deed of wrong,  
Nor thoughts that idly rove;  
But simple truth be on our tongue,  
And in our hearts be love.

And while the hours in order flow,  
O Christ, securely fence  
Our gates beleaguer'd by the foe,  
The gate of every sense.

And grant that to Thine honor, Lord,  
Our daily toil may tend;  
That we begin it at Thy word,  
And in Thy favor end.

St. Ambrose (Fourth Century)\*

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Samuel 18-19

1 Chr. 3

Psalms 59

Acts 13

## **Confession of Sin**

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." And with many other words he solemnly testified

and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

Acts 2:37-40

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we hope in thy Word. There we see thee, not on a fearful throne of judgment, but on a throne of grace waiting to be gracious and exalted in mercy. There we hear thee saying, not ‘Depart ye cursed,’ but ‘Look unto me and be ye saved, for I am God and there is none else.’ They that know thy name put their trust in thee. How many now glorified in heaven, and what numbers living on earth, are thy witnesses, O God, exemplifying in their recovery from the ruins of the Fall the freeness, riches and efficacy of thy grace! All that were ever saved were saved by thee, and will through eternity exclaim, ‘Not unto us, but unto thy name give glory for thy mercy and truth’s sake.’ Thou hast chosen to transact all thy concerns with us through a Mediator in whom all fullness dwells and who is exalted to be Prince and Savior. To him we look, on him we depend, through him we are justified.

The Valley of Vision\*\*

### **Response**

How is the Lord calling you to respond to His Word today?

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today **281**

Charles Wesley, 1739

EASTER HYMN  
77 77 with alleluias

Lyra Davidica, 1708

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day,  
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done.  
 3. Lives a - gain, our glo - rious King. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led.  
 5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n!

Sons of men and an - gels say:  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head.  
 Praise to Thee by both be giv'n;

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high.  
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise.  
 Dy - ing once, He all doth save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Him, like Him we rise.  
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now;

Sing, ye heav'n's, and earth re - ply:  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion Thou!

**Sources and Notes:**

\* All Bible verses cited from *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

\*\*Text of hymn taken from Hymnary.org.

\*\*\*"Praise" material from C. H. Spurgeon, *Our Own Hymn Book: A Collection of Psalms and Hymns for Public, Social and Private Worship* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1883).

\*\*\*\* *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*. Edited by Arthur Bennet, copyright 1975.