



THE LIVING
WORD
OF
EASTER

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

May 7 - May 13



SEASON OF EASTER

Sixth Sunday of Easter

There are no orphans of God. He has never abandoned his children. Not one.

Orphanhood is one of the oldest human fears. What could be worse than to be abandoned, unclaimed, and left alone?

Western culture is experiencing a crisis of belonging. Why is that? Has God abandoned us? How can many feel so spiritually homeless even inside the church?

In John 14:18, Jesus leaves us with a promise: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” His disciples are about to potentially feel abandoned because Jesus will be leaving this world. But he will not be vacating his children. The Holy Spirit will do more than be with them; he will indwell them. God with us.

In Acts 17, pay attention to the idea that lost people are meant to be found. God is seeking us as we are groping in the dark, worshipping idols.

In Genesis 6-9, Psalm 66, and Psalm 93, pay attention to the God who refuses to let go. He doesn't destroy it all. He covenants with us. He doesn't withhold his love. His mighty voice is stronger than the waters. The chaos will not have the last word.

Can you find his presence in Peter's words in 1 Peter 3? A suffering church needs only to look at its suffering Savior and his resurrection to have confidence.

What about the shipwreck in Acts 27? Even in life's wrecks, life is preserved. The storms can't rob God of his power. They display it.

The peace we have is one the world cannot manufacture. Jesus says in John 14:27-29, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world



gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."

Life's circumstances should not rob us of the peace we have as God's children. The world's peace is circumstantial, where you have peace as long as everything goes well. The peace of God's children is not like that.

Even the hardest circumstances can't rob us of that bedrock confidence we have in knowing a Father who won't abandon us. The peace of Christ holds within the storms. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is not a call to stronger feelings. It's an invitation to remember to whom you belong.

Take in the depths of John 16:16-24. Jesus once again tells his disciples that he is going away. The joy is coming one day. Until then, we have the power to ask in his name and know that our Father will generously hear.

FOR reflection

Have you ever felt abandoned by God?

Take heart in knowing that God will never forget you.

Pray: Our Father, thank you that we can call you Father.

Remind us, remind me, that we are beloved children.

You are with us. We are not abandoned. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday	Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12
Friday	Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38
Saturday	Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29
Sunday	Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
Monday	Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44
Tuesday	Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12
Wednesday	Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24

Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

The Morning Liturgy

Opening Scripture

You shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 51)

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

Scripture Reading (read Psalm and Gospel text here)

Period of Silence

Confessing Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. *Amen.*

An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



