

THE LIVING
WORD
OF
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

August 6 - August 12

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Our center Gospel text this week comes from Matthew 14:22-33, where Jesus shocks his disciples by walking on water from the shore while they are in a boat. Our readings this week also include Matthew 8:23-27, where Jesus gets caught in a storm with his disciples and calms it by simply rebuking the wind and the waves. Each time, his disciples react in amazement at this man who can command the wind and defy what we know to be true.

No matter where you are in your own relationship with Jesus, you have likely faced a storm. Maybe you're in the midst of one right now, with the wind and the waves crashing around you. Maybe you're calling out in faith to the One who can calm the storm.

Psalm 28:1-2 speaks to that sense of urgency. The psalmist writes:

*To you, Lord, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.
Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place.*

These miracles of Jesus are read this week alongside snippets from the life of Joseph. In Genesis 39, Joseph finds himself in quite the storm. He's been falsely accused of attempting to assault his boss' wife, even though he never acted inappropriately. But even in the midst of this storm, God grants him favor, even behind bars. Psalm 105 reminds us of Joseph's faith, that despite the many trials he experienced, God never forgot the promises that he made to his people.



We also experience the promises of God. When being tossed by the waves and storms of our daily experience, it is easy to forget that our God is faithful. Jesus is walking toward us, reminding us to take courage. How often do we imitate Peter, taking an initial step of faith, then faltering and sinking when we begin to doubt? The great missionary J. Hudson Taylor once wrote, "I know He tries me only to increase my faith, and that is all in love. Well, if He is glorified, I am content."

FOR reflection

What are the storms you are currently facing? Bring them to God. Name them in detail and tell God what emotions and fears you are carrying. Ask God to increase your faith and trust in him as you navigate this season.





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 35:22b-29; Acts 17:10-15

Friday

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 36:1-8; Acts 18:24-28

Saturday

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 37:5-11; Matthew 16:1-4

Sunday

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Monday

Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday

Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday

Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27

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

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:20

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 *(Proper 14)*

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *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

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your 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.





Image: The Baptism of The Holy Spirit | Artist: Rebecca Brogan | www.jtbarts.com