



THE LIVING  
WORD  
OF  
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

June 25 - July 1



# SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

***God is forever shaping our hearts to become more like his.*** This week's Scripture readings reveal a medley of invitations to unwavering trust and unreasonable hospitality, as God continually welcomes us into a deeper relationship with him.

In Genesis 22:1-14, we see Abraham encounter God in a profoundly personal and deeply emotional way. In an unbearable situation with an impossible request, we'd understand if Abraham walked away from God, but he does not. He remains in conversation, unwavering in trust, and his heart is shaped by the realization that "the Lord will provide."

In Psalm 13, the writer feels forgotten by God to the point of believing they are invisible to him. How do you keep a relationship going when you wonder whether they even see you, know you, or care about you? Have you ever felt that way in your life or do you feel that way now? Have you observed it in others? The psalmist could have walked away from God, but he did not. He remains in conversation with God, chooses unwavering trust, and declares: "But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation" (v. 5). As his heart is shaped, he breaks out in genuine worship.

Jeremiah 28:5-9 offers a glimpse of unreasonable hospitality as prophets (who have been welcomed into God's ministry) welcome one another. Rather than competing, they recognize that they are here to complement one another, truly trusting in God and speaking on his behalf. (They also acknowledge false prophets and define the difference.)

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 takes the themes of unwavering trust and unreasonable hospitality and expands them into a love song that extends far beyond the present moment into future generations. "I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations" (v. 1) explains why: a covenant relationship with God. What stirs in your spirit at the thought of how trust and hospitality ripple into the future?



Romans 6:12-23 helps us consider how sin gets in the way of this ongoing relationship. We begin to see it as something we have to do (law) rather than something we choose to do (grace). Again, it offers a long-range view of our everyday choices when it asks the piercing question in verse 21: “So, what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed?” Our daily decisions and hourly choices should be ones we are not ashamed of, ones worth passing on to future generations, and ones that honor God. But to do so, we need to be in relationship with Jesus Christ, where his Word, his will, and his ways will guide our lives.

Which brings us to the heartbeat of our week, as observed in Matthew 10:40-42. In just a few sentences, Jesus reveals the richness of unwavering trust and unreasonable hospitality. You see, when we see Jesus, we see God. And when we see the Triune God, we see one another and want to welcome others into this journey with us. Cultivating unwavering trust. Demonstrating unreasonable hospitality.

## FOR reflection

***Have you said yes to Jesus? Are you still saying yes to him? Who needs your encouragement to keep trusting? Who needs you to welcome them into God’s ministry with us? Pause now to pray for them. Follow up with them this week.***





# SCRIPTURE

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Thursday</b>	Psalm 13; Micah 7:18-20; Galatians 5:2-6
<b>Friday</b>	Psalm 13; 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Galatians 5:7-12
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalm 13; Genesis 26:23-25; Luke 17:1-4
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4; 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 47; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 1 John 4:1-6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Psalm 47; Isaiah 51:1-3; Matthew 11:20-24

### *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**

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

*John 4:23*

## **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 7)

*Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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](http://www.jtbarts.com)