



THE LIVING  
WORD  
OF  
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

June 4 - June 10

# SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Some gospel stories beg to be prayed. This Sunday's Gospel from the Book of Matthew includes not just one, but three episodes that beg to be prayed.

Christians have a rich history of praying with Scripture to encounter Jesus and to be transformed by him. Try it this week. ***Read through each episode from Matthew 9, imagining yourself as a character in the story. Begin by imagining yourself in the crowd.***

In Matthew 9:9-13, join a crowd buzzing with anticipation, "As Jesus was walking along" (v. 9). Watch as he approaches a despised and traitorous tax collector—a compromised figure who collaborates with an oppressive empire for personal profit. Listen as Jesus invites him to join his family of faith. Watch in shock (and horror?) as the man rises from his toll booth to follow Jesus.

Who are the despised and traitorous characters in your world? Imagine Jesus marching up to one of them and inviting them to become your brother or sister. How would you feel? Would you be inclined to protest like the Pharisees? After all, it doesn't appear that Matthew has done anything to signal true repentance. What is Jesus doing? Perhaps Matthew, who is both a character in this story and the author of the Gospel, is hinting that he experienced a kind of resurrection when Jesus raised him from a life of sin to join a heavenly banquet. If so, does that change how you hear the story?

***What happens if you read it again, this time imagining yourself as Matthew?***

In Matthew 9:18-26, we move from a despised traitor to a respected leader who implores Jesus for help. His request seems impossible. A young girl has just died but he believes Jesus can somehow raise her to life. This time, Jesus, not Matthew, is the one who gets up from a table in response to human need. Again, imagine yourself in the crowd. Does it feel different now that a powerful and mighty figure, the synagogue ruler, has attached himself to Jesus? Is this the kind of popularity and power that will further God's kingdom?



Suddenly, the procession comes to a screeching halt. Jesus stops everything and spins around to speak to an unclean outcast. Time is of the essence, but Jesus forces the mighty synagogogue ruler to take a backseat to a forgotten nobody. He even calls the woman “daughter,” affirming that her faith has healed her (v. 22). What ailment of body, mind, or soul have you been carrying? How is Jesus inviting you to trust him for wholeness in the midst of your brokenness?

In the climactic episode, Jesus renounces the finality of death: “The girl is not dead but asleep” (v. 24). His words are laughable. Everyone knows death is the end, right? Why does Jesus tell everyone, “Go away” (v. 24)? Why does he wait for the crowd to be outside before he acts? ***As you imagine yourself in the story, are you in the room where it happened or are you still outside with the crowd? If so, will you spread the good news?***

## FOR reflection

***As you put yourself in the episodes of Matthew 9, which character did you resonate with the most? Which character was difficult to relate to? Ask God to help you understand his Word through the people you encounter in Scripture.***





# SCRIPTURE

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Thursday</b>	Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 13:1-18; 2 Peter 2:17-22
<b>Friday</b>	Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 14:17-24; Acts 28:1-10
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 15:1-20; Matthew 9:27-34
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 33:1-12; Psalm 50:7-15; Genesis 12:1-9; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 16:1-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 17:1-27; Hebrews 13:1-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 12:1-8

### *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**

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*Psalm 19:14*

## **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 5)*

*O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; 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)