

Compline: A Service of Online Evening Prayer

Zoom is making security updates that will soon require a password, which will now be required to join the meeting. That password is the numerals of John Calvin's birthday – 7101509.

OPENING SENTENCES

O God, come to our assistance
O Lord, hasten to help us.

The Lord grant us a restful night
and peace at the last. **Amen.**

EVENING HYMN

#701 Lord Prepare Me

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Almighty God, maker of all,
have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
have mercy on us.

I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my family in Christ,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and pray God almighty to have mercy on me.

**May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from your sins
and give you time to amend your life. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my family in Christ,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and pray God Almighty to have mercy on me.**

May Almighty God have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins
and give you time to amend your life. **Amen.**

PSALM

Evening Psalms for the Week of September 13th -September 17th

Monday:

Tuesday: Psalm 26

Wednesday: Psalm 27

Thursday: Psalm 28

Friday: Psalm 29

SCRIPTURE :

THE LIFE OF PAUL, WEEK 1:

Outside of Jesus, Paul had the most significant influence on the development of the New Testament. Scholars agree that at least 7 New Testament books were penned by Paul himself, and another 6 were attributed to Paul but most likely written by students or disciples. This week we're going to delve into the life of Paul, most of which we get from the Book of Acts (which was written by Luke), but we hear bits and pieces about his life from his letters as well. This week we'll cover Paul's conversion and early ministry. Paul began his life as an enemy of Christians, but had an encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road that changed his life. He then became one of Christ's apostles, and travelled across the ancient world preaching and starting communities of Jesus' followers. On Tuesday and Wednesday we'll read Luke's account in Acts. On Thursday and Friday we'll read Paul's telling from the book of Galatians, parts of which match up with Acts 9 and 15.

Monday: Acts 9:1-9

No Compline

Tuesday: Acts 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he

found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Wednesday: *Acts 9:10-19*

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' ¹³But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Thursday: *Galatians 1:13-24*

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ;

²³they only heard it said, ‘The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.’ ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

Friday: *Galatians 2:1-10*

Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ²I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. ³But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us— ⁵we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. ⁶And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those leaders contributed nothing to me. ⁷On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised ⁸(for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), ⁹and when James and Cephas¹ and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

We will take some time at this moment to share our prayer requests for each other and the world, then continue with the following prayers:

Monday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest,

¹ Paul is referring to Simon Peter, using the Aramaic form of the name that Jesus gave him. *Cephas* is the Aramaic term for “rock,” just as *petra* is Greek for rock, leading to the name Peter. When Jesus declared that he was Peter, for “on this rock I will build my church,” (Matthew 16:18), he was most likely speaking in Aramaic. Paul and Luke (in Acts) use both interchangeably.

and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Tuesday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

O God, Our Creator,
by whose mercy and might
the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light:
We give into your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems,
and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only those things which you bless will prosper.
To your great love and protection
we commit each other
and all for whom we have prayed,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Wednesday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work or watch
or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary,
bless the dying,
soothe the suffering,
pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous;
and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

Thursday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

Eternal God,
the hours of both day and night are yours,
and to you the darkness is no threat.
Be present, we pray,
with those who labor in these hours of night,
especially those who watch and work on behalf of others
Grant them diligence in their watching,
faithfulness in their service,
courage in danger,
and competence in emergencies.
Help them to meet the needs of others
with confidence and compassion;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Friday:

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.
Almighty and Eternal God,
the strength and hope of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we who have not seen,
have faith and receive
the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal (*Ephesians 3:20-21*)

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.
Amen.

Blessed is God, who hears our prayers,
whose steadfast love endures forever.