

## DAY FIVE READING AND PRAYERS

### Morning Reading

*Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-9*

“From where did this wisdom come to me, a wisdom which was not in me? I didn’t even know how the number of days, much less did I know God. Where did such a great and life-giving gift come from then, to know and love God, even at the cost of leaving homeland and parents?

“And many were the gifts offered to me, along with sorrow and tears. There were those whom I offended, even against the wishes of some of my superiors; but, with God guiding me, I did not consent nor acquiesce to them. It was not by my own grace, but God who overcame it in me, and resisted them all so that I could come to the peoples of Ireland to preach the gospel. I bore insults from unbelievers, so that I would hear the hatred directed at me for traveling here. I bore many persecutions, even chains, so that I could give up my freeborn state for the sake of others. If I be worthy, I am ready even to give up my life most willingly here and now for his name. It is there that I wish to spend my life until I die, if the Lord should grant it to me.” *Confession 36, 37*

## Morning Prayer

Surely you have accomplished with your people what they could never have done without you. Lord, have I ever concocted or contrived to do what I have been doing with you? Silence any suspicions about those who serve you in integrity. Guard them against greed; inure them against insults; preserve them through persecutions.

## Noon Reading

I am greatly in debt to God. He gave me such great grace, that through me, many people should be born again in God and brought to full life. Also that clerics should be ordained everywhere for this people who have lately come to believe, and who the Lord has taken from the ends of the earth. This is just what he promised in the past through his prophet: ‘The nations will come to you from the ends of the earth, and they will say: How false are the idols our fathers got for themselves, and they are of no use whatever.’ And again: ‘I have put you as a light to the nations, that you may be their salvation to the end of the earth.’” *Confession 38*

## Noon Prayer

Father, give great grace to church leaders and laypeople to make disciples of Jesus so as to increase the population of your kingdom. Prosper every good work of kingdom-minded businesses in order to spread the good news of Christ. Send workers to unreached ethnic groups. Convict your people to prayer! Start with even me, Lord, and help me always.

## Evening Reading

*Scripture Text: Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 16:19-21*

“It is there that I await his promise — he is the one who never deceives, as is repeated in the gospel: ‘They will come from the east and from the west, and they will lie down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.’ We believe that believing people will come from all over the world.

“It is right that we should fish well and diligently, as the Lord directs and teaches when he says: ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ And again he says through the prophets: ‘Behold, I send many fishers and hunters, says God,’ and other such sayings. Therefore it is very right that we should cast our nets, so that a great multitude and crowd will be taken for God. Also that there should be clerics to baptize and encourage a people in need and want. This is what the Lord says in the gospel: he warns and teaches in these words: ‘Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold I am with you all days, even to the end of the age.’ Again he says: ‘Go out therefore to the whole world and announce the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.’ And yet again: ‘This gospel of the kingdom will be announced all over the world, as testimony to all the nations; and then will come the end.’ In the same way, the Lord foretold this through the prophet as he said: ‘And it will come about in the last days, says the Lord, that I

will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy; your young people will see visions and your older people will dream dreams. Indeed, on my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit and they will prophesy.’ Hosea says: ‘Those who were not my people, I will call my people; and her who has not obtained mercy, I will name the one who has obtained mercy.’ In the place where it was said: ‘You are not my people: there they will be called children of the living God.’” *Confession 39, 40*

### Evening Prayer

Jesus, where your commission for us to make disciples among unreached people groups is unfinished, propel your people to finish the task! Renew the vision to us, remind us of the scriptures, reverse our priorities to align with yours, repel the darkness and deafness of our unbelief, restore us to repentance. May you be exalted; expand the kingdom!