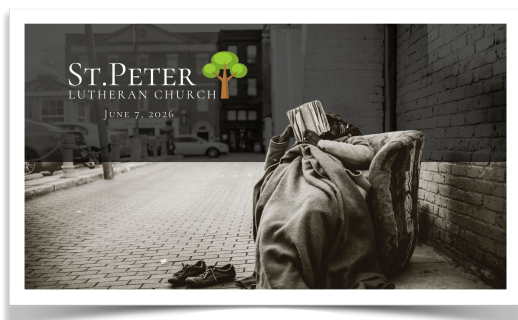


Devotions: June 8 - June 12, 2026



This five-day devotional explores Jesus' table fellowship with sinners and what it reveals about the gospel. Together we'll hold two truths in tension: God's welcoming hospitality and His transforming holiness. Each day will invite you to receive Jesus' grace personally and to reflect His wise, courageous love toward others.

Monday, June 8

Matthew 9:10-13

In Jesus' day, sharing a meal was not a casual social act—it signaled belonging, solidarity, and shared life. When Jesus chose to sit at a table with tax collectors and sinners, He was doing something that looked scandalous to the religiously serious. The question hanging in the air was whether His welcome meant approval of their sin or compromise with evil.

Jesus answers with a physician's logic: the sick need a doctor. His presence at that table was not an endorsement of sickness but a mission of healing. He draws near to those who know they need mercy, and His fellowship becomes a doorway into repentance, restoration, and a new community shaped by Him.

Where have you experienced Jesus' welcoming mercy in your own life, and how is He inviting you to move from simply receiving His grace to being transformed by it?

Gracious Lord Jesus,

Thank You for welcoming sinners to Your table and for drawing near to those who need mercy. I confess that I am among those who need Your healing and grace every day. Help me never to mistake Your welcome for permission to remain unchanged, but to see it as an invitation into deeper fellowship with You. Teach me to receive Your mercy with humility and gratitude, and shape my heart to reflect Your compassion toward others. May I extend the same gracious welcome You have shown me. Amen.

Tuesday, June 9

Luke 5:31-32

Jesus' words expose a danger that can hide under religious respectability: believing you are "well" when you are actually in need. The Pharisees were guarding boundaries they believed protected holiness. Yet, their outrage revealed how easily holiness can be reduced to separating themselves from obvious sinners rather than to devotion to God's merciful heart.

Jesus insists He came to call sinners to repentance, which means His welcome is never an empty affirmation. His call is honest about sin and hopeful about change. The gospel is not "stay as you are, but feel included"; it is "come as you are, and be made new." Today's step is to let Jesus tell the truth about you without crushing you, and to let His mercy lift you without excusing what harms you.

Is there an area of your life where pride, self-sufficiency, or hidden sin is keeping you from honestly admitting your need for Jesus' healing and forgiveness?

Merciful Savior,

You know my heart completely—its strengths, its weaknesses, its hidden sins, and its deepest needs. Give me the courage to be honest before You. Guard me from pride that assumes I am well when I need Your healing touch. Thank You that Your call to repentance is filled with hope and not condemnation. Help me trust that Your mercy is greater than my failures and that Your grace is powerful enough to transform me. Make me more like You each day. Amen.

Wednesday, June 10

Romans 2:4

God's kindness is not sentimental permission; it is purposeful mercy meant to lead you somewhere. The sermon highlighted two opposite errors: demanding transformation before inclusion, or offering inclusion with no expectation of transformation. Romans reminds us that God's kindness has direction—it moves us toward repentance, not away from it.

This means Christian hospitality should mirror God's kindness: warm, patient, and truthful. If we offer welcome without truth, we dull people to the reality of sin and their need for a Savior. If we offer truth without welcome, we can harden people in shame and keep them from the very place where healing happens. The gospel creates a community where people are received as they are, yet not left as they are.

How can you better reflect God's balance of kindness and truth in your relationships with family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors?

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your kindness that leads me to repentance. Your mercy has never been shallow or careless, but purposeful and life-giving. Help me to reflect that same balance of grace and truth in my relationships. Let my words be honest, my welcome genuine, and my love patient. Keep me from offering truth without compassion or compassion without truth. May my life point others to the healing and transforming power of the gospel.

Amen.

Thursday, June 11

1 Peter 1:15-16

God's people are called to be holy—not to appear superior, but to reflect His character in the world. The Pharisees were right that God cares about holiness, and the sermon reminded us that our associations and witness matter. The question is how holiness functions: is it a wall to keep sinners out, or a light that draws them toward the God who saves?

In Jesus, holiness is not fragile. He can enter messy places without being contaminated, and He brings cleansing with Him. As His followers, holiness means we do not make peace with sin, but we also do not fear proximity to people who need grace. We learn to live distinct lives that remain open-hearted and mission-minded, trusting that God can use faithful presence to invite others into transformation.

What would it look like for you to pursue holiness in a way that remains faithful to God while also staying engaged with people who need His grace?

Holy God,

You have called Your people to be holy because You are holy. Help me to reflect Your character in the way I live, speak, and serve. Protect me from a holiness that becomes prideful or fearful, and teach me the holiness of Jesus—a holiness that enters broken places with courage and brings light into darkness. Give me wisdom to remain faithful to Your truth while remaining open-hearted toward those who need Your grace. Use my life as a witness to Your saving love.

Amen.

Friday, June 12

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

The gospel does not merely create a welcoming space; it creates a new people. In Christ, we become new creations, not by self-improvement but by His saving work. That means the church is not a club of the already-righteous or a circle that celebrates everyone's "authentic self" without question—it is a reconciled community where sinners are made new and learn a new way of life together.

As ambassadors of Christ, we represent His message and His manner. We extend fellowship as an invitation to meet Jesus, trusting that true belonging is found in reconciliation to God. This shapes how we welcome: we open our lives, our tables, and our time, while holding out the hope of real change. The aim is not winning arguments or signaling virtue, but participating in Christ's mission of mercy that leads to transformation.

As an ambassador of Christ, who has God placed in your life right now, who may need to experience both the welcome of Christian fellowship and the hope of the gospel?

Lord of Reconciliation,

Thank You for making me a new creation through Jesus Christ. I praise You that my identity is not found in my past, my failures, or my own efforts, but in Your redeeming work. As Your ambassador, help me represent both Your message and Your manner. Open my heart, my home, and my table to others. Let me share the hope of the gospel with humility and love, trusting that You are still changing lives today. May I participate faithfully in Your mission of mercy and reconciliation.

Amen.

Sunday's Coming!
