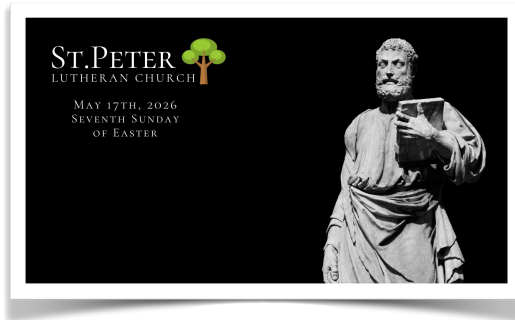


Devotions: May 18 - May 22, 2026



Monday, May 18

Acts 1:14

The disciples returned from the Mount of Olives to a cramped upper room, carrying both awe from Jesus' ascension and uncertainty about what would come next. Instead of rushing to manufacture momentum, they devoted themselves to prayer, choosing dependence before direction. Waiting did not mean doing nothing; it meant anchoring their hearts together before God so that their next steps would be faithful rather than frantic.

Prayer is often the place where boldness is purified. When you feel the pressure to act, prayer slows you down enough to examine your motives and invites the Spirit to align your desires with God's purposes. Pastor Chris reminds us that initiative detached from prayer can become reckless, but initiative rooted in prayer becomes steady, wise, and strengthening to others.

Lord, teach us to wait before You with trusting hearts. Quiet our anxiety, slow our hurried decisions, and draw us into deeper dependence on Your Spirit. Help us seek You first in every uncertainty and walk in obedience shaped by prayer. Amen.

Have a great week!

Tuesday, May 19

Acts 1:15-20

Peter guided the community toward a wise and careful process to address a sensitive situation: choosing someone to take Judas' place. Instead of grasping for control, they sought integrity, unity, and the Lord's direction together. Their decision-making was not a personality contest or a power move; it was an act of stewardship for the sake of the church's mission.

Faithful initiative often looks like doing the next right thing in a prayerful, principled way. It is possible to be decisive without being domineering, and courageous without being careless. Pastor Chris highlights that when boldness is seasoned by prayer and Scripture, it does not destabilize the community; it strengthens it and creates space for God's work to continue.

Father, ground our hearts in Your Word. Shape our thoughts, motives, and actions through Scripture so that our boldness reflects humility, wisdom, and truth. Give us courage that is guided by Your Spirit and not driven by impulse. Amen.

Wednesday, May 20

Acts 1:21-26

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God of wisdom, lead us in every decision we face. Help us pursue integrity, unity, and faithfulness rather than control or self-interest. Teach us to trust You with uncertain outcomes and to take the next right step with courage and peace. Amen.

Thursday, May 21

Act 4:19-20

After Pentecost, Peter's boldness did not disappear; instead, it matured. When authorities demanded silence, Peter insisted that obedience to God must come before obedience to people. This was not reckless defiance; it was faithful witness flowing from a settled allegiance to Jesus and a readiness to accept consequences.

The world still needs a church and believers who will speak truthfully, love courageously, and refuse to be muted by fear. Yet bold witness is most compelling when it comes from a heart that has been with God in prayer and shaped by Scripture. When you know to whom you belong, you can stand with humility and firmness, speaking what you have seen and heard in Christ.

Lord Jesus, strengthen us to stand faithfully for You. When fear tempts us to stay silent, fill us with courage, gentleness, and love. Help us speak truth with humility and live as bold witnesses to what You have done in our lives. Amen.

Friday, May 22

Acts 10:34-35

Peter's Spirit-shaped boldness eventually carried him beyond familiar boundaries. He entered the home of a Gentile and declared that God shows no partiality, allowing the gospel to expand past old lines of comfort and tradition. His courage became a blessing not only to the church but to the world, because it made room for more people to hear and receive God's good news.

Pastor Chris asks what future generations will remember about our courage. A legacy is formed when ordinary believers repeatedly choose prayer, Scripture, and obedient initiative—especially when it requires crossing barriers of habit, preference, or fear. When your boldness is grounded in God's heart, you will find yourself moving toward people rather than away, carrying Christ's welcome with conviction and compassion.

Father, open our hearts to the people You are calling us toward. Break down barriers of fear, comfort, and preference so we may reflect Your welcome and compassion. Use our lives to carry the hope of the gospel to others with boldness and grace. Amen.

Sunday's Coming!