

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Scripture Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 2026 to Sunday, October 25, 2026*

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions — “Now, whoever does not highly value the Sacrament shows that he has no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no danger, no hell. In other words, he does not believe any such things, although he is in them up over his head and his ears and is doubly the devil’s own. On the other hand, he needs no grace, no life, no paradise, no heaven, no Christ, no God, nor anything good. For if he believed that he had so much evil around him, and needed so much that is good, he would not neglect the Sacrament, by which such evil is remedied and so much good is bestowed. Nor would it be necessary to force him to go to the Sacrament by any law. He would come running and racing of his own will, would force himself, and beg that you must give him the sacrament.” *The Preface of Dr. Martin Luther, Small Catechism*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 91:11

He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Read/Chant Psalm 96

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun, Oct. 18	Gospel Lesson, 21st Sunday after Pentecost—Luke 1:26-38	Matthew 14:1-21
Mon, Oct. 19	The Budding of Aaron’s Rod—Numbers 16:41-17:13	Matthew 14:22-36
Tues, Oct. 20	Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-29	Matthew 15:1-20
Wed, Oct. 21	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:1-9	Matthew 15:21-30
Thu, Oct. 22	Balaam’s Donkey—Numbers 22:1-38	Matthew 16:1-12
Fri, Oct. 23	Epistle Lesson, Feast of St. James—James 1:1-12	Matthew 16:13-28
Sat, Oct. 24	Gospel Lesson, Reformation Sunday—John 8:31-36	Matthew 17:1-13
Sun, Oct. 25	First Lesson, Reformation Sunday—Revelation 14:6-7	Matthew 17:14-27

Collect for the Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.

- 4 Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.
- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

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