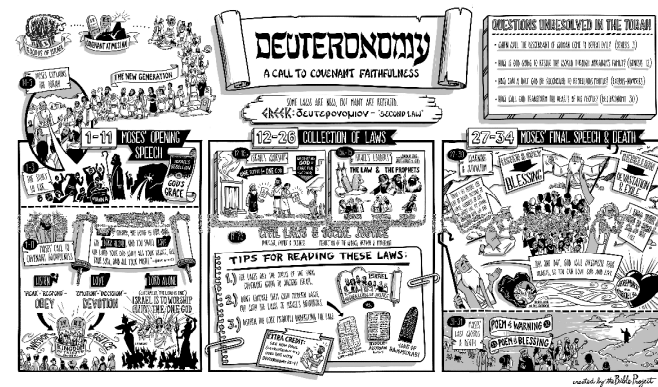


The Congregation at Prayer  
The Whole Story

2025  
A Daily Devotional  
St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



**Week #15-The Whole Story**  
**Passion Week**  
April 6-April 13, 2025

**Start Every Day**

*“In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”*

recite **APOSTLE’S CREED**

Read Catechism—The Seventh Commandment  
***You shall not steal.***

*What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.*

VERSE: Ephesians 2:8-9 ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”***

### **PRAYER of the WORD**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday, April 6**

- Read **Psalm 96** (Oh sing to YHWH a new song; sing to YHWH, all the earth!)
- Read **The Torah: Deuteronomy 22-25**

**AMBROSE:** (based Deut. 2:5) If you consider it truly, there is an incongruity that nature itself abhors. For why, man, do you not want to appear to be what you were born as? Why do you put on a strange guise? Why do you ape a woman? Or why do you, woman, ape a man? Nature arrays each sex with its own garments. Men and women have different customs, different complexions, gestures and gaits,



- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!
- Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

different sorts of strength, different voices. LETTER 15 (69).<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>

**Monday, April 7**

- Read **Psalm 97** (YHWH reigns, Let the earth rejoice.)
- Read **The Torah: Deuteronomy 26-28**

**BASIL THE GREAT:** (Deut. 28:1-6) The prosperity of a city is dependent upon the supply of goods for sale in the market. We say that a country is prosperous which produces much fruit. So also there is a certain prosperity of the soul when it has been filled with works of every kind. It is necessary first for it to be laboriously cultivated and then to be enriched by the plentiful streams of heavenly waters, so as to bear fruit thirtyfold, sixtyfold and a hundredfold and to obtain the blessing which says, "Blessed shall be your barns and blessed your stores." EXEGETIC HOMILIES 14.5.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>2</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>3</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy](#).

## **Tuesday, April 8**

- Read **Psalm 98** (Oh sing to YHWH a new song)
- Read ***The Torah: Deuteronomy 29:1-31:29***

**ORIGEN:** (DEUT. 29:23) He pretends then that he does not see your future so that he may preserve your self-determination by not foretelling or foreknowing whether you will repent or not. So he says to the prophet, "Speak, perhaps they will repent." You will find numerous other passages where Scripture talks about God "taking on the manners of" man. If you hear of the anger of God and his wrath, do not suppose that anger and wrath are passions of God. The purposes of using this way of speaking are for converting and educating the infant, since we also use a fearful expression with children, not from an actual state of mind but because of a purpose to cause fear.

HOMILIES ON JEREMIAH 18.6.7.<sup>4</sup>

## **Wednesday, April 9**

- Read ***Psalm 99*** (YHWH reigns; let the peoples tremble!)

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Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture.  
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>4</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds.  
2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#).

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture.  
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

and preserved evermore in body and soul;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## **Personal Prayers**

pray **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.

## **571 GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE**

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

water of the church's baptism is always ready to be moved. That water was moved only in one place; this water is moved throughout the entire world. Then an angel descended; now it is the Holy Spirit. Then it was the grace of the angel; now it is the mystery of the Trinity. That water cured only once in a year; this water saves people every day. That water healed the body; this water heals both body and soul. That water healed a person's health; this heals from sin. There, the body was only healed of its infirmities; here, body and soul are freed from sin. There, many who were weary lay sick at that water because it only cured one person a year. No one will be left lying sick here where the waters of baptism are, if they resolve to come and be healed. SERMON 14.<sup>8</sup>

### **Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday)**

- Read **Psalm 103** (Bless YHWH, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!)
- Read ***The Gospels: John 7-8***

### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the Collect for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed

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<sup>8</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2006. [John 1–10](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Read ***The Torah: Deuteronomy 31:30-34:12***

**AUGUSTINE:** (Deut. 31:6) Pay attention to what comes next: “Without love, a measure of money is sufficient for present needs, because he himself said, ‘I will not forsake you; I will not desert you.’ ” “You were afraid of all kinds of evils, against which you were saving money; count me as your guarantor.” That’s what God says to you. God—not a man, not your equal or you yourself—says to you: “I will not forsake you; I will not desert you.” If a person made such a promise, you would trust him. God makes it, and you hesitate? He made the promise, put it in writing, made out the bond; you needn’t worry at all. SERMONS 177.11.<sup>5</sup>

### **Thursday, April 10**

- Read **Psalm 100** (Make a joyful noise to YHWH, all the earth!)
- Read ***The Gospels: John 1-2***

**EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA:** (John 1:1) Who beside the Father could clearly understand the Light that was before the world, the intellectual and essential Wisdom that existed before the ages, the living Word that was in the beginning with the Father and that was God, the first and only begotten of

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<sup>5</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

God that was before every creature and creation visible and invisible, the commander-in-chief of the rational and immortal host of heaven, the messenger of the great counsel, the executor of the Father's unspoken will, the creator, with the Father, of all things, the second cause of the universe after the Father, the true and only begotten Son of God, the Lord and God and King of all created things, the one who has received dominion and power, with divinity itself, and with might and honor from the Father. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY 1.2.2–3.<sup>6</sup>

### **Friday, April 11**

- Read **Psalm 101** (I will sing of steadfast love of justice; to you, O YHWH, I will make music.)
- Read ***The Gospels: John 3-4***

**CHRYSOSTOM:** (John 3:16)The text, “God so loved the world,” shows such an intensity of love. For great indeed and infinite is the distance between the two. The immortal, the infinite majesty without beginning or end loved those who were but dust and ashes, who were loaded with ten thousand sins but remained ungrateful even as they constantly offended him. This is who he “loved.” For God did not give a servant, or an angel or even

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<sup>6</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2006. [John 1–10](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

an archangel “but his only begotten Son.” And yet no one would show such anxiety even for his own child as God did for his ungrateful servants....

He laid down his life for us and poured forth his precious blood for our sakes—even though there is nothing good in us—while we do not even pour out our money for our own sake and neglect him who died for us when he is naked and a stranger.... We put gold necklaces on ourselves and even on our pets but neglect our Lord who goes about naked and passes from door to door.... He gladly goes hungry so that you may be fed; naked so that he may provide you with the materials for a garment of incorruption, yet we will not even give up any of our own food or clothing for him.... These things I say continually, and I will not cease to say them, not so much because I care for the poor but because I care for your souls. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 27.2–3.<sup>7</sup>

### **Saturday, April 12**

- Read **Psalm 102** (Hear my prayer, O YHWH)
- Read ***The Gospels: John 5-6***

**CHROMATIUS OF AQUILEIA:** (John 5:4) That water [at the pool of Bethesda] was moved once a year; this

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<sup>7</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2006. [John 1–10](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.