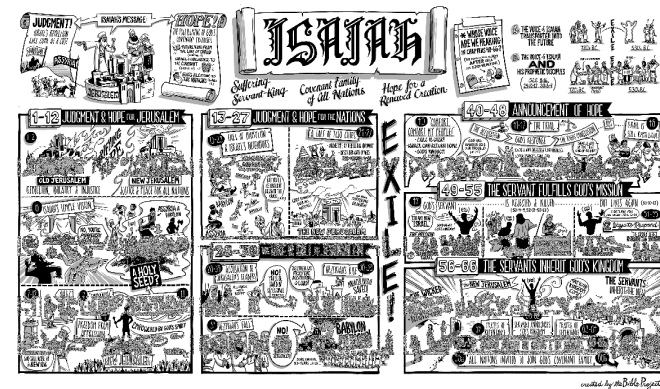


The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #30-The Whole Story
8th Week after Trinity
August 10-August 17, 2025

Start Every Day

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

recite **APOSTLE'S CREED**

VERSE: Philippians 3:20-21 ***"But our citizenship
is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the
Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly***

body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”



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, August 3

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 49-51**

THEODORET OF CYR: (Isaiah 49:3) “You are my servant Israel, and I will glorify myself in you.” This is to be understood according to Christ’s human nature. For according to his human nature Christ is called Israel, Jacob, the son of David, the seed of Abraham, and so on. Christ is called “servant” since the servile nature God the Word assumed was the form of a slave. For “he has given him the name above every name,” that is, to be the Son. As God, Christ the master was always Son, but as man he became Son. For there is not one that is “that Son” and another that is “this Son,” but the one who is God the Son also became the Son as a human being.² COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 15.49.3.¹

¹ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

- 5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He
 To suff'ring goes
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
Text: Public domain

Monday, August 4

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 52-54**

THEODORE OF HERACLEA: (Isaiah 53:6) He bore the sum of human evils and every form of transgression, as well as their recompense and punishment. And as if he were our debtor, the only-begotten Word of God, coming into the world alongside us, fulfilled every law and all righteousness and did not stumble over sin but received it willingly so as to change our punishment into peace and harmony. For undergoing temptation he carried our rebukes and punishments, and by faith we make our own his sufferings, and dying together with him we are saved by grace. He was not delivered by force but as an act of obedience. FRAGMENTS ON ISAIAH.²

Tuesday, August 5

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 55-57**

AMBROSE: (Isaiah 55:1) The free person is the wise one who was bought with the price of heavenly speech, the gold and silver of God's word, bought with the price of blood (not least important is it to know the buyer), bought with the price of grace, for he heard and understood the one who said, "All you who thirst, come to the waters, and you that

² Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

have no money, make haste, buy and eat and drink.” LETTER 54.³

Wednesday, August 6

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 58-60**

THEODORET OF CYR: (Isaiah 60:1) This prophecy has three subjects. One subject, presented as in a sketch, is the rebuilding of Jerusalem that took place at the time of Cyrus and Darius. Another is like an icon “written” or drawn with many colors as it shows more precisely the lines of truth—the shining brightness of the holy church. The third is the archetype of the icon, that is, the life to come and our citizenship in heaven. The divine Paul taught this distinction: “The law contained the shadow of things to come and not the image of the realities.” And he calls the things to come the immortal and pain-free existence, the life unsullied by worry; whereas the image of the realities⁶ is the ecclesiastical commonwealth and its existence, which is like a model of the things to come.... For the painters have the reality that they copy to make their picture, drawing a sketch first before filling in the shadow with colors ... the prophetic words apply to the church of God, which has received the light of the knowledge of God and is

³ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And ’gainst Him rise.

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

encircled by the glory of the Savior. COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 19.60.1.⁴

Thursday, August 7

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 61-63**

AMBROSE: (Isaiah 61:1) We have shown by the clear evidence of the Scripture that the apostles and prophets were appointed, the latter to prophesy, the former to preach the gospel, by the Holy Spirit in the same way as by the Father and the Son. Now we add what all will rightly wonder at and not be able to doubt, that the Spirit was on Christ; and that as he sent the Spirit, so the Spirit sent the Son of God. For the Son of God says, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has appointed me, he has sent me to preach the gospel." And having read this from the book of Isaiah, he says in the Gospel, "Today has this Scripture been fulfilled in your ears," that he might point out that it was said of himself. ON THE HOLY SPIRIT 3.1.1.⁵

Friday, August 8

- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 64-66**

⁴ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

⁵ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

JEROME: (Isaiah 65:7) But Abraham was saved by the integrity of faith from the fire of the Chaldeans. Jeremiah agrees with this, speaking in the person of the Lord: "Like a hot spring in the desert, I found Israel with a deadly sword."²⁷ For ... he said, All the world lay wounded by the deadly swords of idolatry. I found Israel in Abraham to have the heat of faith, like a medic after a war who senses that some among the bodies of the dead have a vital pulse and provides care for the wounded to restore their health. But what was written, *ōs thermon*, that is, "like a hot spring," the Latin translator rendered "like a wolf," deceived as he was by ambiguous words that cause errors also among the Greeks. Nevertheless, it should be noted that in Hebrew *thoda*, which means "grace," is written in place of "heat." Indeed, Israel shall be saved by the grace of God, not by its own works. COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 18.7.⁶

Saturday, August 9

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 1-3**

JOHN CASSIAN: (Jeremiah 1:13-19) A saint is different from a sinner, not because he or she is not tempted in the same way but because he or she is not defeated even by a great assault, while the other is overcome even by a slight temptation. The

⁶ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

strength of any good person would not, as we said, be worthy of praise, if the victory was gained without being tempted. Most certainly there is no room for victory where there is no struggle and conflict. "Blessed is the one who endures trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." According to the apostle Paul also, "power is made perfect" not in ease and delights but "in weakness." "And behold," says he, "I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you."¹² CONFERENCE 3.18.13.⁷

Sunday, August 10

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 4-6**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 8th Sunday after Trinity*

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will;

⁷ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.