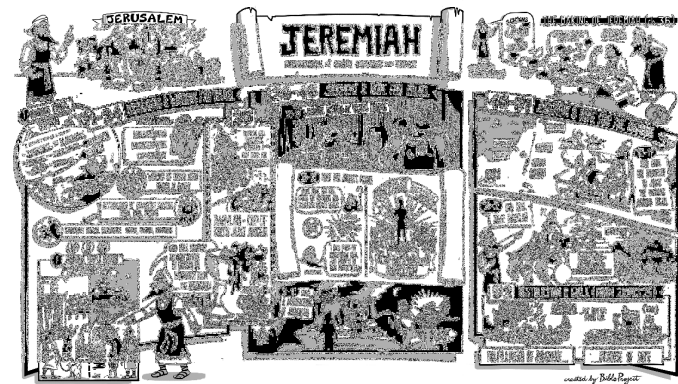


The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #34-The Whole Story
9th Week after Trinity

August 17-August 24, 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: Ephesians 1:4 *"(the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ) chose us in him before***

the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”



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 17

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

JUSTIN MARTYR: (Jeremiah 4:22) In the beginning, God commanded that you do these things because of your wickedness. In the same way, because of your determination to remain wicked, or rather, because you are increasingly prone to do it, he uses the same precepts to call you to remember it or come to know it. But you are a people hard-hearted and without understanding, both blind and lame, children without faith, as he himself says, honoring him only with your lips, far from him in your hearts, teaching doctrines that are your own and not his. DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO 27.¹

Monday, August 18

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 7-9**

¹ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- 3 God is speaking by His Spirit,
 Speaking to our hearts again,
 In the ageless Word declaring
 His own message, now as then.
 Through the rise and fall of nations
 One sure faith yet standing fast;
 God abides, His Word unchanging;
 God the first, and God the last.

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt.

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JEROME: (Jeremiah 7:1-6) He instructs both the people of Judea of that time and us today, who are seen to be constituted as the church. We are not to put our faith in the splendor of its buildings. Nor are we to put faith in its golden ceilings and decorated walls of marble. We are not to say “this is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.” For the temple of the Lord is there where the true faith dwells, in holy living and the chorus of all the virtues. Then he infers, “If you make your ways straight and if your thoughts do not follow error, and if you will do justice and refrain from evil, nor shed innocent blood or scandalize the little ones. If you do not walk after alien gods, honoring perverse doctrines that you simulate in your own hearts for evil purposes.⁷ I will dwell with you in that place that you call the temple of God and in the land that I gave to your ancestors, who were obviously apostles and apostolic men. Or at least I will cause you to dwell there from beginning to end in security.” This can be compared with the virgin who spreads modesty and freely prefers chastity, who has another conscience and knows only that virginal purpose of the apostle that “she be holy in body and in spirit.” For what good is a chaste body to a corrupt spirit that does not have the other virtues that this prophetic word describes? SIX BOOKS ON JEREMIAH 2.32.2–4.²

² Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [*Jeremiah*](#),

Tuesday, August 19

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 10-12**

PROSPER OF AQUITAINE: (Jeremiah 10:23-25)

Jeremiah, explaining that humankind receives wisdom from God, states, "I know, O Lord, that the way of a person is not his. Neither is it of a person ... to direct his way." Again the Lord proclaims through the same prophet that God effects the conversion of a heart to him and says, "I will bring them again into this land. And I will build them up again and not pull them down. And I will plant them and pluck them up. And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. And they shall be my people and I will be their God, because they shall return to me with whole heart." THE CALL OF ALL NATIONS 1.24.³

Wednesday, August 20

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 13-15**

JEROME: (Jeremiah 14:10-12) In the Gospel, the Savior commends the unjust steward because, although he defrauded his master, he acted wisely for his own interests. The heretics in this instance

[Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [Jeremiah](#),

[Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

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.

583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

- 1 God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil,
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, His throne eternal;
God the first, and God the last.
- 2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word Incarnate,
God of God, before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending,
He reveals our God to us.

performance of mighty works and true manhood for the endurance of sufferings. SERMON 28.3.⁷

Sunday, August 24

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 25-27**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 9th Sunday after Trinity*

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please You; 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,

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

pursued the same course. When they saw how great a matter a little fire had kindled,⁴ and that the flames applied by them to the foundations had by this time reached the housetops and that the deception practiced on many could no longer be hid, they asked for and obtained letters of commendation from the church, so that it might appear that until the day of their departure they had continued in full communion with it. Shortly afterward⁶ the distinguished Anastasius succeeded to the pontificate. But he was soon taken away, for it was not fitting that the head of the world should be struck off during the episcopate of one so great. He was removed, no doubt, that he might not seek to turn away by his prayers the sentence of God passed once for all. For the words of the Lord to Jeremiah concerning Israel applied equally to Rome: "Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry. When they offer burnt offering and oblation, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence." LETTER 127.10.⁴

Thursday, August 21

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 16-18**

JEROME: (Jeremiah 16:16) "He rains on the wicked snares." Without any doubt, it is the Lord who

⁴ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [*Jeremiah, Lamentations*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

contrives snares for sinners, in order to entrap those who abuse their freedom and to compel them to tread the right path under his bridle, thereby making it possible for them to advance through him who says, “I am the way.”¹⁰ Wherefore, in Jeremiah, the Lord sends fishers and hunters to spread nets for the lost fish tossed about in whirlpools and to hunt down and save the beasts that wander through mountains and hills. This and the following verses do not promise punishment to sinners, as many believe, but rather give them promise of healing. HOMILIES ON THE PSALMS 60 (Ps 10).⁵

Friday, August 22

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 19-21**

AMBROSE: (Jeremiah 20:8-10) Indeed, Christ, loving Moses, appeared to him in fire, and Jeremiah, having in himself the gift of divine love, said, “There was a burning fire in my bones, and I have become weakened on every side, and I cannot bear it.”³³ Love is good, then, having wings of burning fire as it flies through the breasts and hearts of the saints and consumes whatever is material and earthly but tests whatever is pure and with its fire makes better whatever it has touched. This fire the Lord Jesus sent on earth, and faith shone bright,

⁵ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

devotion was enkindled, love was illuminated, and justice was filled with splendor. ISAAC, OR THE SOUL 8.77.⁶

Saturday, August 23

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 22-24**

LEO THE GREAT: (Jeremiah 23:5-6) There was only one remedy in the secret of the divine plan that could help the fallen living in the general ruin of the entire human race. This remedy was that one of the sons of Adam should be born free and innocent of original transgression, to prevail for the rest by his example and by his merits. This was not permitted by natural generation. There could be no clean offspring from our faulty stock by this seed. The Scripture says, “Who can make a clean thing conceived of an unclean seed? Isn’t it you alone?” David’s Lord was made David’s Son, and from the fruit of the promised branch sprang. He is one without fault, the twofold nature coming together into one person. By this one and the same conception and birth sprung our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom was present both true Godhead for the

⁶ Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.