

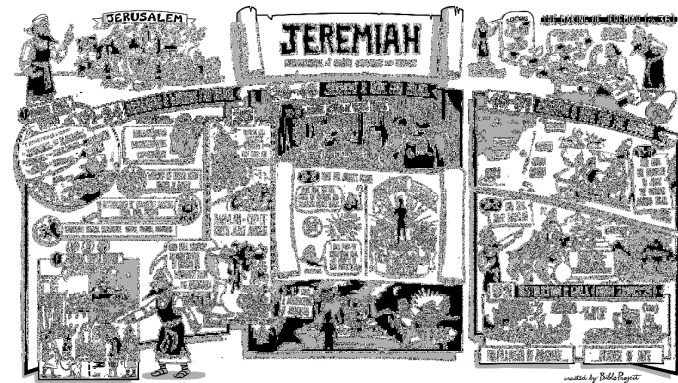
Prayer  
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer  
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #35-The Whole Story

10<sup>th</sup> Week after Trinity

August 24-August 31, 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: Hebrews 12:1-3 ***"Therefore, since we  
are surrounded by so great a cloud of  
witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight,***

***and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.***

### **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 24**

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

ATHANASIUS: (Jeremiah 25:10-14) Israel ... killed those who were sent, and not even before the Lord of the vineyard were they ashamed, but even he was slain by them. Truly, when he came and found no fruit in them, he cursed them through the fig tree, saying, "From now on, let there be no fruit from you." The fig tree was dead and fruitless so that even the disciples wondered when it withered away. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by the prophet: "I will take away from them the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the scent of myrrh and the light of a lamp, and the whole land

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

D 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

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## 578 Thy Strong Word

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

shall be destroyed.” For the whole service of the law has been abolished from them, and from now on and forever they remain without a feast. FESTAL LETTERS 6.5–6.<sup>1</sup>

## **Monday, August 25**

- **Read Major Prophet: Jeremiah 28-30**

JEROME: (Jeremiah 29:7) He also adds, “Seek the peace of the city or the land,” “for in its peace will be your peace.” This is confirmed by the apostolic exhortation: “I urge, first of all, that intercessions, prayers, requests and thanksgivings be made for all persons, for kings and all who are in high office, that we might live a quiet and tranquil life in all reverence and chastity.” Furthermore, according to the mystical understanding, after we are expelled on account of our sins from Jerusalem, that is, the church, and delivered to Nebuchadnezzar, about whom the same apostle said “delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord,” and again, “they are those whom I delivered to Satan, that they would learn not to blaspheme,”<sup>3</sup> we must not be careless or idle, so as to despair inwardly of salvation, but first we must build homes—on rock, not on sand—the kind of homes that the midwives built in Exodus because they feared the Lord.<sup>5</sup>

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

Second, we must plant gardens or orchards, the kind that the Lord also planted in paradise in Eden, placing within it the tree of life, about which it is written, "The tree of life is for those who will receive it, and blessed is the one who lays hold of it."<sup>7</sup> Third, we must take wives, one of whom is wisdom, about whom Solomon wrote, "Love her, and she will keep you. Embrace her, and she will exalt you," and, in another passage, "I sought to make her my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty."<sup>9</sup> Nor is the one spouse, wisdom, sufficient for us, unless we have the others as well: fortitude, temperance and justice, that we might generate many children with them. We also must give our daughters away to men, that the truth of the faith, which is translated into sons, might espouse good works, which refers to daughters, and good works be united to those healed by faith. And we must multiply the number of such fruitful sons and daughters, so that, destroying what is childish and growing into perfection, we may deserve to hear, "I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning,"<sup>11</sup> and may say to our children, along with the apostle, "I have begotten you in Christ Jesus through the gospel." Let us furthermore seek the peace of the city and land in which our church is located, that we might deserve to return to it from whom we were transferred by the judgment of the Lord, to live in the error of "confusion." For if the church will receive us, we will have peace. The mercy of the Lord must also

Your heavenly treasures; 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.

### **Saturday, August 30**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 43-45**

THEODORET OF CYR: (Jeremiah 45:2) The Lord comforts Baruch, who was serving the prophet, writing the oracles, complaining about the hardships and feeling vexed. He commands him to bear nobly his life full of pain. He says, "If I am now uprooting, cutting off and handing over to all sorts of punishments all the people whom I led out of Egypt and planted in this land, are you distraught because you alone are not spending your life in tranquility? But you should not do this. I will still take care of you, and, when I bring punishment on them, I will bring you comfort. And wherever you live, you will have my care." ON JEREMIAH 8.45.<sup>7</sup>

### **Sunday, August 31**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 46-48**

### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the *Collect for 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity***

O God, You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity. Mercifully grant us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of

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

be taken into account, who commanded us to pray for our enemies and to do good to those who persecute us,<sup>13</sup> that we would not be content with our salvation alone but would also seek the salvation of our enemies. SIX BOOKS ON JEREMIAH 5.63.8–12.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, August 26**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 31-33**

TERTULLIAN: (Jeremiah 31:1-8) When Jeremiah says, "And I will gather them together from the extremities of the land in the feast day," he signifies the day of the Passover and of Pentecost, which is properly a "feast day." However, every day is the Lord's. Every hour, every time, is apt for baptism. If there is a difference in the solemnity, there is no distinction in the grace. ON BAPTISM 19.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, August 27**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 34-36**

AUGUSTINE: (Jeremiah 36:23) Doubtless you are not unaware that in the early history of the chosen people the sacrilege of idolatry was committed and

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<sup>2</sup> Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [\*Jeremiah, Lamentations\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>3</sup> Wenthe, Dean O., ed. 2009. [\*Jeremiah, Lamentations\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

a prophetic book burned by a scornful king. But the crime of schism would not be punished more severely than any of these acts unless it were considered more grievous. Surely you remember how the earth opened and swallowed up alive the authors of schism and how fire coming down from heaven destroyed those who followed them.<sup>2</sup> But neither the making and adoring of an idol nor the burning of a sacred book deserve to meet such vengeance. LETTER 51.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Thursday, August 28**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 37-39**

JEROME: (Jeremiah 38:5-6) Why am I making such a point of all this? Because a monk should not look at the crowd of sinners but reflect on the way of life and the fewness of the saints. The whole of Judea was led into captivity. Nebuchadnezzar had come, and thousands of people were displaced into Babylonia as prisoners. Jeremiah alone was left praising God, and they threw him into a muddy cistern; nevertheless, the soul of this one man was more precious than that of all the people. Would you know what one person can do? Jesus, son of Nave, was alone, although the whole world was inhabited. There were, to be sure, countless multitudes, but he was alone. Alone he

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

commanded the sun and the moon, and they stood still. A man gives an order, and heaven gives heed. Heaven listened to him because he was listening to the Lord. Jeremiah was in captivity, but there were also with him great numbers of exiles. What does he say? "I sat alone, because you filled me with indignation."<sup>5</sup> How were you alone in the city? I say, I was alone because I had no one with whom to share my purpose. HOMILIES ON THE PSALMS 54 (Ps 143).<sup>5</sup>

#### **Friday, August 29**

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 40-42**

THEODORET OF CYR: (Jeremiah 42:2) Their words are full of piety but do not agree with their actions. When ten days had passed, the prophet obtained his reply. But I think that the delay of the response was for the benefit of those who had made the request, so that they might know how God barely received the supplication of the prophet. Accordingly, the prophet says that God had ordered for them to stay in that land. He says, "I will deem you worthy of all care." ON JEREMIAH 8.42.<sup>6</sup>

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

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