

Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #36-The Whole Story
10th Week after Trinity
August 31-September 7, 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: 2 Corinthians 5:21 ***“For our sake (God) made him (Jesus) who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

CATECHISM—Ten Commandments: First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

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 31

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

BASIL THE GREAT: (Jeremiah 48:10) It is hazardous for a superior to be delinquent, since he holds the position of arbiter in everything. It is both injurious and detrimental for those under their charge when they are disobedient. It is especially perilous if, in addition, the one who is in a superior position is scandalous. Each one who shows in his own place a tireless zeal, fulfilling the apostle’s precept, “in carefulness not slothful,” merits praise for his promptness. But for negligence he deserves the opposite, that is, unhappiness and woe. For the

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Refrain
- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
Text: Public domain

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.

prophet says, "Cursed is the one who does the work of the Lord negligently." THE LONG RULES 24.¹

Monday, September 1

- Read **Major Prophet: Jeremiah 49-50**

JEROME: (Jeremiah 51:6) The Lord's command was given through Jeremiah: "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every person his soul." To the day of its death the nation never returned to Chaldea or regretted the fleshpots of Egypt or its strong-smelling meats. Accompanied by its virgin bands, it became a fellow citizen of the Savior; and now that it has ascended from its little Bethlehem to the heavenly realms it can say to the true Naomi: "Your people shall be my people and your God my God." LETTER 108.32.²

Tuesday, September 2

- Read **Major Prophet: Lamentations 1-2**

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA: (Lamentations 1:1-2) Bringing someone to his senses is censure, which makes one think. And he does not abstain from this form of instruction either, but says by Jeremiah,

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

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

“How long shall I cry, and you not hear? So your ears are uncircumcised.” O blessed forbearance! And again, by the same: “All the heathen are uncircumcised, but this people is uncircumcised in heart,” “for the people are disobedient children,” he says, “in whom faith does not exist.” ... Bewailing one’s fate is latent censure and artfully helps to bring salvation, albeit under stealth. He made use of this by Jeremiah: “How did the city sit solitary that was full of people! She that ruled over territories became as a widow; she came under tribute; weeping, she wept in the night.” ... In the end, the system God pursues to inspire fear is the source of salvation. And it is the prerogative of goodness to save: “The mercy of the Lord is on all flesh, while he reproves, corrects and teaches as a shepherd does his flock. He pities those who receive his instruction and those who eagerly seek union with him.” ... “For according to the greatness of his mercy, so is his rebuke.” For it is indeed noble not to sin, but it is good also for the sinner to repent, just as it is best to be always in good health but well to recover from disease. So he commands by Solomon, “Strike your son with the rod, that you may deliver his soul from death.” And again, “Do not abstain from chastising your son but correct him with the rod, for he will not die.”⁸ For reproof and rebuke, as also the original term implies, are the stripes of the soul, chastising sins, preventing death and leading to self-control for those who are out of control.... And so we, too, who in our lives

with its evergreen leaves, with actions pleasing to God. The Orthodox Faith 4.17.⁷

Sunday, September 7

- Read **Pastoral Epistles: Titus 1-3**
- Read **Pauline Epistle: Philemon**

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 11th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD’S PRAYER**

⁷ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Friday, September 5

- Read **Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy 4-6**

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA: (1 Timothy 4:3) It follows that celibacy is not particularly praiseworthy unless it arises through love of God. The blessed Paul says of those who show a distaste for marriage, “In the last days people will abandon the faith, attaching themselves to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demonic powers that they should abstain from food, at the same time forbidding marriage.” Again he says, “Do not let anyone disqualify you in forced piety of self-mortification and severity to the body.” ... Well? Did not the righteous of past days share gratefully in God’s creation? Some of them married and produced children without loss of self-control. STROMATA 3.51–52.⁶

Saturday, September 6

- Read **Pastoral Epistles: 2 Timothy**

JOHN OF DAMASCUS: (2 Timothy 3:16) To search the sacred Scripture is very good and most profitable for the soul. For, “like a tree which is planted near the running waters,” so does the soul watered by sacred Scripture also grow hearty and bear fruit in due season. This is the orthodox faith. It is adorned

⁶ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

are sick with shameful lusts and reprehensible excesses and other inflammatory effects of the passions, need the Savior. And he administers not only mild but also stringent medicines. The bitter roots of fear then arrest the eating sores of our sins. This is why fear is also salutary, if bitter. Sick, we truly stand in need of the Savior; having wandered, of one to guide us; blind, of one to lead us to the light; thirsty, “of the fountain of life, of which whoever partakes shall no longer thirst”; dead, we need life; sheep, we need a shepherd; we who are children need a tutor, while universal humanity stands in need of Jesus; so that we may not continue intractable and sinners to the end and thus fall into condemnation but may be separated from the chaff and stored up in the paternal garner. CHRIST THE EDUCATOR 1.9.³

Wednesday, September 3

- Read **Major Prophet: Lamentations 3-5**

ATHANASIUS: (Lamentations 3:31-33) But all those who call their lands by their own names and have wood and hay and stubble in their thoughts; such as these, since they are strangers to difficulties, become aliens from the kingdom of heaven. Had they however known that “tribulation perfects patience, and patience experience, and experience

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

hope, and hope makes not ashamed,” they would have exercised themselves, after the example of Paul. He said, “I bring my body into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”³² They would easily have borne the afflictions that were brought on them to prove them from time to time, if the prophetic admonition had been listened to by them: “It is good for a person to take up your yoke in his youth. He shall sit alone and shall be silent, because he has taken your yoke on him. He will give his cheek to him who strikes him. He will be filled with reproaches. The Lord does not cast away forever. When he abases, he is gracious, according to the multitude of his tender mercies.” For though all these things should proceed from the enemies, stripes, insults, reproaches, yet shall they avail nothing against the multitude of God’s tender mercies; for we shall quickly recover from them since they are merely temporal, but God is always gracious, pouring out his tender mercies on those who please him. Therefore, my beloved, we should not look at these temporal things but fix our attention on those that are eternal. Though affliction may come, it will have an end; though insult and persecution, yet are they nothing to the hope that is set before us. For all present matters are trifling compared with those that are future; the sufferings of this present time not being worthy to be compared with the hope that is to come. For what can be compared with the kingdom? Or what

is there in comparison with life eternal? Or what is all we could give here, to that which we shall inherit yonder? For we are “heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.”³⁴ Therefore it is not right, my beloved, to consider afflictions and persecutions but the hopes that are laid up for us because of persecutions. FESTAL LETTERS 13.4.⁴

Thursday, September 4

- Read **Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy 1-3**

CHRYSTOM: (1 Timothy 2:4) Do not be afraid to pray for the Gentiles. God himself wills it. Fear only to pray against anyone. For that God does not will. And if you pray for the heathen, you ought of course to pray for heretics as well, for we are to pray for all humanity and not to persecute. And this is good also for another reason: We are partakers of the same nature. God calls us to have good will and affection toward one another. HOMILIES ON 1 TIMOTHY 7.⁵

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

⁵ Gorday, Peter, ed. 2000. [*Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.