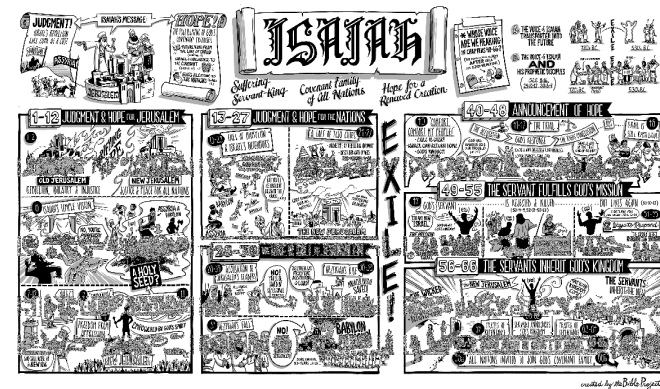


The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #30-The Whole Story
7th Week after Trinity
August 3-August 10, 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: Galatians 5:22-23 ***"But the fruit of the
Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,***

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”



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 28-30**

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: (Isaiah 28:5) The prophet expounds on the destiny of those in Israel who believed in Christ, because Israel did not perish completely, as the remnant of Israel was saved, according to the prophecy. Quite a number of people believed in Christ, and his apostles were, so to speak, the first fruit. Therefore at that time the Lord of hosts will be as a crown of hope and a diadem of glory to the remnant of his people. The Lord of hosts will crown the believers with hope and glory, that is, with hope of future blessings and with glory because they will reign with him. They will become the recipients of the highest honor and will be worthy of adoration and glory. What glory can be compared with that received in the kingdom of Christ? In another passage Isaiah also says, “You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God,” since Christ will crown those who believe in him

- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy
wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the
skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
Text: Public domain*

with unending glory and bless them with the most joyous hope. And the remnant of Israel will participate in all of this after the others, the Gentiles, are received in Christ. Realizing their glory in Christ, they cry to their heavenly God and Father, "O Lord, crown us with the shield of your favor."² For when it pleased their God and Father, he revealed himself as an unbroken shield and became the Christ who defends us from the arrows of the evil one and keeps his people. COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 3.1.28.¹

Monday, August 4

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

JEROME: (Isaiah 31:6) In place of the last clause ["But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, says the Lord."] the true Hebrew text (which is not preserved in the Greek and Latin versions) gives the following: "you have forsaken me, yet return, and I will receive you, says the Lord." Isaiah also speaking in the same sense uses almost the same words: "Return," he cries, "O children of Israel, you who devise a deep and sinful counsel. Return to me, and I will redeem you. I am God, and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is nothing beside me. Look to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth."⁴

¹ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

Remember this and show yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O you transgressors. Return in heart and remember the former things of old: for I am God and there is none else.” LETTER 122.2.²

Tuesday, August 5

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

CYRIL OF JERUSALEM: (Isaiah 34:4) So, our Lord Jesus Christ comes from heaven, and he comes with glory at the last day to bring this world to its close. For this world will accomplish its course, and the world that once came into being is hereafter to be renewed. For seeing that corruption, theft, adultery and every form of sin has been poured out on the earth, and in the world fresh blood has been ever mingled with previous blood, this astonishing habitation filled with iniquity is not to last. This world passes away that the fairer world may be revealed. Now would you have this proved by the express words of Scripture? Listen to these from Isaiah: “And the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll; and all the stars shall fall down, as the leaf falls off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.” CATECHETICAL LECTURES 15.3.³

² McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

³ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

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.

878 Abide with Me

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s
pow’r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with
me.

APHRAHAT: (Isaiah 48:12) No one should suppose that there is another God, either before or afterwards. He said, "From age to age," just as Isaiah said, "I am the first and I am the last." And after God had brought forth Adam from within his thought, he fashioned him, and breathed into him of his Spirit and gave him the knowledge of discernment so that he might discern good from evil and might know that God made him. DEMONSTRATIONS 17.7.⁷

Sunday, August 10

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

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 7th Sunday after Trinity*

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; 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**

⁷ Elliott, Mark W., ed. 2007. [Isaiah 40–66](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

Wednesday, August 6

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

JEROME: (Isaiah 38:3) Hearing that he was about to die, Hezekiah prayed not that he be granted several more years of life but that he be permitted to stand before the judgment of God, as he wished. For he knew that Solomon pleased God by not asking for a longer life. Preparing to journey to the Lord, therefore, Hezekiah chronicled his works, how he had walked before the Lord in truth and in perfection of heart. Happy is the conscience that remembers good works at a time of affliction: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God," or as it is written elsewhere, "Who will glory in the purity of his heart?"⁶ This is the explanation: perfection of heart can now be attributed to him because he destroyed idols, overturned the vessels of Baal in the temple, shattered the bronze serpent⁸ and did other things that Scripture commemorates. COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 11.38.1–3.⁴

Thursday, August 7

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

APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTIONS: (Isaiah 40:1) Observe, you who are our beloved sons, how merciful yet

⁴ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

righteous the Lord our God is; how gracious and kind to me. And yet most certainly “he will not acquit the guilty,” although he welcomes returning sinners and revives them, leaving no room for suspicion to those who wish to judge sternly and reject offenders entirely, refusing to promise exhortations to them that might otherwise bring them to repentance. In contradiction to people like this, Isaiah says to the bishops, “Comfort, comfort my people, you priests. Speak comfortably to Jerusalem.” It therefore behooves you, on hearing those words of his, to encourage those who have offended and lead them to repentance. Give them hope that it is not in vain that you enter into their situation of sin, because you love them. Readily receive those who are penitent and rejoice over them. Judge the sinners with mercy and compassion. For if somebody was walking beside the river and ready to stumble, and you pushed him and threw him into the river, instead of offering him your hand to help, you would be guilty of murdering your brother or sister. Instead, you should lend a helping hand when they’re ready to fall. Otherwise they will perish without anyone to help. And you do this so that the people watching are warned and so that the offenders may not utterly perish. It is your duty, O bishop, neither to overlook the sins of the people nor to reject those who are penitent so that you may not unskillfully destroy the Lord’s flock or dishonor his new name, which he has imposed on his people. And you

yourself should also be above reproach as those ancient pastors were of whom God speaks to Jeremiah and others.⁵ CONSTITUTIONS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES 2.15.⁵

Friday, August 8

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

ISAAC OF NINEVEH: (Isaiah 43:2) “If thou go through fire, thou shalt not be burned, and the rivers shall not flow over thee.” Faith has many times worked such things before the eyes of all creation. If knowledge were given the opportunity to attempt such things, it would in no wise be persuaded. For it is by faith that men have entered into flames and bridled the burning power of the fire, walking unharmed through the midst thereof, and they have trodden upon the back of the sea as upon dry land. All these are above nature and opposed to the modes of knowledge. ASCETICAL HOMILIES 52.⁶

Saturday, August 9

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

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

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