

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of Septuagesima

January 28, 2024, through February 4, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week —**INCOMPLETE WORK OF MATTHEW** (5th Century AD): No one hires a laborer to work only so that the laborer may eat. So we too have been called by Christ to do not merely what pertains to our own benefit but to do what pertains to the glory of God. The hired hand, who only works so that he may fill his belly, wanders purposelessly about the house. So we too, if we do only what pertains to our benefit, live without reason on the earth. And just as the hired hand first looks to his work and then to his wages, so we too are Christ's hired hands and first ought to look at what pertains to God's glory and to the benefit of our neighbors.... Charity and true love toward God "does not insist on its own way" but desires to perform everything to the wish of the beloved—then to what pertains to our own benefit. HOMILY 34.¹

Life Thoughts-- God our Father can draw water from rock (Exodus 17:6), reward the unworthy (Matthew 20:9), and make the last first (Matthew 20:16). Surely He will overhaul our hopeless circumstances and lost causes, even when human pains and mistakes have brought them about (1 Corinthians 10:1-5). Indeed, we not only witness it but participate in it as well (Exodus 17:5). *Keeper of our souls, work faith in us and those we serve to await great transformation at Your hand. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- **1 Corinthians 9:25** – “**Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.**” Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. We have received new life in Christ by His grace. Now He calls us to follow Him deliberately, with self-control and with intention.

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 95:6

“O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yahweh, our Maker!”

Read or Chant Psalm 95

Catechism: Apostles' Creed—Second Article

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchase and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

¹ Simonetti, Manlio, ed. 2002. [Matthew 14-28](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Jan 28	Gospel Lesson, Septuagesima Sunday—Matthew 20:1-16	Exodus 17:1-7
Mon., Jan. 29	Little girl, I say to you, arise.—Mark 5:21-43	Exodus 5:1-23
Tues., Jan 30	A prophet is not without honor except in his own country—Mark 6:1-29	Exodus 6:1-13
Wed, Jan 31	Take heart, it is I; have no fear—Mark 6:30-39	Exodus 11:1-10
Thurs, Feb 1	Out of the heart of man come evil thoughts—Mark 7:1-30	Exodus 12:1-28
Fri., Feb 2	Presentation of our Lord—Luke 2:22-32	Malachi 3:1-4
Sat., Feb 3	I believe, help my unbelief—Mark 9:11-32	Exodus 13:1-22
Sun., Feb 4	Gospel Lesson, Sexagesima Sunday—Luke 8:4-15	Isaiah 55:10-13

Pray the Collect for Septuagesima:

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 and Petitions

Lord's Prayer

Hymn of the Week

Salvation unto Us has Come

LSB 555

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.

8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

D 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Looking forward to Sexagesima Sunday

January 28, 2024

Hymns: 577, 824, 655, 618, 895

Isaiah 55:10-13

2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9

Luke 8:4-15