

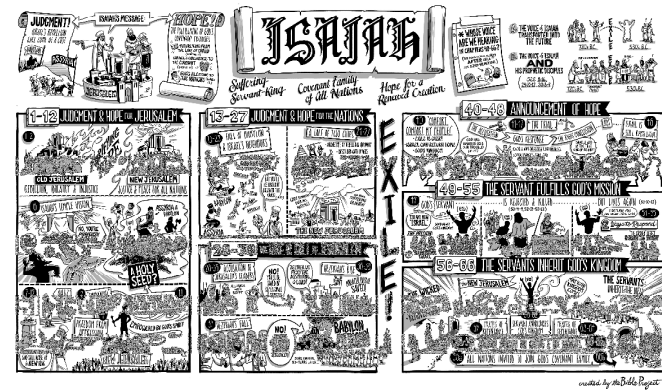
Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #29-The Whole Story
6th Week after Trinity
July 27-August 3, 2025

Start Every Day

*"In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit. Amen"*

recite **APOSTLE'S CREED**

Read **Catechism—The Athanasian Creed: Part 3**

But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages;

And He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
Perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
One, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

Who suffered for our salvation,
descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

507 Holy, Holy, Holy

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down
before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826
Text: Public domain

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 6th Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.

Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:3 ***“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit.”***

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, July 27

- Read **Proverbs 25**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 7-9**

JUSTIN MARTYR: (Isaiah 7:14) And again hear what was prophesied through Isaiah the prophet, that he would be born of a virgin. He said, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they will call his name, God with us." Through the prophetic spirit God announced beforehand that things which are unimaginable and believed to be impossible for human beings would take place, in order that when it occurred it would be believed and received by faith because it had been promised. In order to ensure that someone does not accuse us of saying the same things as the poets, who say that Zeus came to women for sexual pleasure, we will explain the words of this prophecy clearly. The phrase "behold, the virgin shall conceive" means that the virgin would conceive without intercourse. If she had in fact had intercourse with someone, she would not have been a virgin. God's power came on the virgin, overshadowed her and caused her to conceive while she remained a virgin. FIRST APOLOGY 33.¹

Monday, July 28

- Read **Proverbs 26**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 10-12**

JEROME: (Isaiah 11:1) Until the beginning of the vision, or the burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the

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

Saturday, August 2

- Read **Proverbs 31**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 25-27**

JEROME: (Isaiah 25:8) "Where, O death, is your strife? Where, O death, is your sting?" Commenting upon the power of this testimony, Paul infers "the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. Yet thanks be to God, who gave us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Because he interpreted the resurrection of the Lord in this way, we dare not nor are we able to interpret it differently. Death can be understood as hell and as the devil, who was strangled by the death of Christ. In this connection, Isaiah also said, "Growing stronger, he devoured death," and again, "the Lord has wiped every tear from every face." The two brothers who divided from one another at death, according to the history of that time, are understood to be Israel and Judah, that what was then partially prefigured might now be known fully³³ and that Israel and Judah might be liberated and redeemed along with every human family. COMMENTARY ON HOSEA 3.13.14–15.⁷

Sunday, August 3

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

⁷ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [*Isaiah 1-39*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

Lord shall send them a man who shall save them, and with judgment shall he heal them.” EPITOME OF THE DIVINE INSTITUTES 44.⁵

Friday, August 1

- Read **Proverbs 30**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 22-24**

CHRYSTOSTOM: (Isaiah 22:4) Grief is often capable of refreshing distressed souls and of rendering a burdened conscience light: consider how often women, when they have lost their most beloved children, break their hearts and perish if they are forbidden to mourn and to shed tears. But if they do all which those who are sad are apt to do, they are relieved and receive consolation. And what wonder that this should be the case with women, when you may even see a prophet affected in a similar manner? Therefore he was continually saying, “Leave me alone. I will weep bitterly. Do not try to comfort me over the destruction of the daughter of my people.” So oftentimes sadness is the bearer of consolation; and if it is so with regard to this world, much more with regard to spiritual things. HOMILIES CONCERNING THE STATUES 18.8.⁶

⁵ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

⁶ McKinion, Steven A., ed. 2004. [Isaiah 1-39](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

son of Amos saw, his entire prophecy was about Christ, a prophecy that we want to explain piecemeal lest the ideas and discussions thereof together confuse the reader’s memory. The Jews interpreted the branch and the flower from the root of Jesse to be the Lord himself because the power of his governance is demonstrated in the branch and his beauty in the flower. But we understand the branch from the root of Jesse to be the holy Virgin Mary, who had no shoot connatural to herself. About her we read above: “Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son.” And the flower is the Lord our Savior, who said in the Song of Songs, “I am the flower of the field and the lily of the valleys.” In place of “root,” which only the Septuagint translated, the Hebrew text has *geza*, which Aquila and Symmachus and Theodotus interpret as *kormon*, that is, “stem.” And they translated “flower,” which the Hebrew text calls *nēšer*, as “bud” to show that after a long time in Babylonian captivity, no longer possessing any glory from the sprout of the old kingdom of David, Christ would rise from Mary as though from her stem. The educated of the Hebrews believe that what all the ecclesiastics sought in the Gospel of Matthew but could not find, where it was written “Because he will be called a Nazarene,” was taken from this place. But it should be noted that *nēšer* was written here with the [Hebrew] letter *šade* [ש], the peculiar sound of which—somewhere between

z and s—the Latin language does not express.
COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 4.11.1–3.²

Tuesday, July 29

- Read **Proverbs 27**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 13-15**

ORIGEN: (Isaiah 14:4) According to Isaiah, in which lament is offered on behalf of the king of Babylon, much can be learned about the origin and beginning of evil. Evil derived its existence from some who had lost their wings by following the one who was first to lose his own wings. AGAINST CELSUS 6.43.³

Wednesday, July 30

- Read **Proverbs 28**
- Read **Major Prophet: Isaiah 16-18**

JEROME: (Isaiah 16:5) “And a throne will be prepared in mercy, and on it will sit in truth, in the tabernacle of David, one who judges and seeks judgment and quickly renders what is just.” The Hebrews interpret this to mean that Hezekiah, a just man, after having expelled the Assyrians, will retain the throne of David and rule Judah,

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

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

adjudging the people of God to be subject to himself in truth. Others understand that it is about Christ. With the antichrist reduced to dust and with the oppressor who had trampled all the earth removed, Christ the King will come and sit in the tabernacle of David and render to each person according to his works on the day of judgment. Neither is there any doubt that this chapter prophesies of Christ. But we are also able to understand the same thing in the first advent and to demonstrate in the tabernacle of the church that the surging victories of the churches of Moab in all the earth testify to the dominion of Christ.
COMMENTARY ON ISAIAH 5.16.5.⁴

Thursday, July 31

- Read **Proverbs 29**
- Read **Major Prophet: 19-21**

LACTANTIUS: (Isaiah 19:20) That he was both God and man was declared before by the prophets. That he was God, Isaiah thus declares, “They shall fall down before you, they shall make supplication to you, since God is in you, and we knew it not, even the God of Israel. They shall be ashamed and confounded, all of them who oppose themselves to you, and shall go unto confusion.” ... Likewise that he was man ... Isaiah also thus speaks, “and the

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