

The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #26-The Whole Story

3rd Week after Trinity

July 6-July 13, 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 2

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

And yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

And yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord,

So also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

But the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

VERSE: 1 John 2:2 “***(Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.***”

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 6

- Read **Proverbs 4**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 3-6**

AUGUSTINE: (1 Kings 3:16-28) As for the royal judgment between the two of them, it simply admonishes us to fight for the truth and to drive hypocrisy away from the spiritual gift of the church like a spurious mother from another woman's living son and not to let her control the grace granted to others when she could not take care of her own. But let us do this, defending and fighting for the truth without running the risk of division.

That decision of the judge, when he ordered the baby to be cut in two, is not meant as a breach of unity but as a test of charity. The name Solomon means peaceable. So a peaceable king does not tear limbs apart that contain the spirit of life in unity and concord. But his threat discovers the true mother, and his judgment sets aside the spurious one. So then, if it comes to this sort of crisis and trial, to prevent the unity of Christian grace from being torn apart, we are taught to say, "Give her the child, only let him live." The true mother, you see, is not concerned about the honor of motherhood but about the well-being of her son. Wherever he may be, his mother's true love will make him more her possession than that of the false claimant. SERMON 10.4.¹



Monday, July 7

- Read **Proverbs 5**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 7-8**

EPHREM THE SYRIAN: (1 Kings 8:1-2) The two weeks [of festivity] and the two solemn celebrations were accomplished by the people of the Lord with the greatest joy. The former prefigured the festivals of our church, which Christ began with the mystical dedication of his temple and the transferring of the flesh which he had assumed, to heaven; the latter

¹ Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [*1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*](#).

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- The outcome for my good,
For You must give success.
- 3 Keep me from saying words
That later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech
May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place
I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace
Lest I offend the weak.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes
With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends
For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught,
To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might
To live in peace with all.
- 5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

foreshadowed the last day, the greatest of all solemn days, that will dawn for all saints after the resurrection of the flesh. And the distribution of the ministries and offices in the heavenly and everlasting temple will follow that day. ON THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS 8:1.²

Tuesday, July 8

- Read **Proverbs 7**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 9-11**

ORIGEN: (1 Kings 10:4) The Scriptures express astonishment that the queen of Sheba came from “the end of the earth to hear Solomon’s wisdom.” When she saw his dinner, his furnishings and the attendants in his place, she was astounded and wholly in a state of wonder. If we do not embrace the great riches of our Lord, the great furnishings of his Word and the wealth of his teachings; if we do not eat the “bread of life”; if we are not fed with the flesh of Jesus and do not drink his blood; if we disdain the banquet of our Savior, we should realize that God has both “kindness and severity.” Of these, we should pray more for his kindness on us, in Christ Jesus our Lord. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 38.6.³

² Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

Wednesday, July 9

- Read **Proverbs 7**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 12-14**

AUGUSTINE: (1 Kings 12:28) For all that, King Jeroboam of Israel, who had proof that God was true, when he got the kingdom God had promised, was so warped in mind as not to believe in him. Actually, he feared that if he came to God's temple in Jerusalem (as all Jews without exception were bound by divine ordinance to do for the offering of sacrifices), his subjects might be alienated from his allegiance and reattached to David's blood successors as the royal dynasty. With this in mind, he established idolatry in his own kingdom and, with shocking impiety, tricked God's people into joining him in the worship of idols. Even so, God did not entirely give up sending prophets to reprimand the king, and his successors who continued his idolatry and the people themselves. For it was in Israel that there appeared Elijah and his disciple, Elisha, both magnificent prophets and wonder workers as well. CITY OF GOD 17.22.⁴

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⁴ Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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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.

696 O God, My Faithful God

- 1 O God, my faithful God,
True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is,
All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unstained by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command,
My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should
While trusting You to bless

what means?” And he said, “I will go forth and be a false spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.”

These words show clearly, then, that if any spirit is the lying spirit, all similar spirits would be lying spirits, indebted to their lying father for being lying spirits in accordance with their falsehood and evil, not because this belongs to their essence.

COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 20.257–62.⁷

Sunday, July 13

- Read **Proverbs 11**
- Read **Wisdom Book: Ecclesiastes 1-3**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 3rd Sunday after Trinity*

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus 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 Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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Thursday, July 10

- Read **Proverbs 8**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 15-17**

EPHREM THE SYRIAN: (1 Kings 16:1) [Baasha] was appointed king by God and was sent to restore the true religion which had been destroyed by Jeroboam and his successor Nadab, and to take revenge on the evil that was committed as well as impiety. He was certainly able to accomplish in the best possible way his first task, as he completely erased the progeny of both Jeroboam and Nadab. However, with regard to his second task, he promoted their impiety by perversely and foolishly worshiping the idols of both [his predecessors] and did not destroy at all the calves made by Jeroboam but incited his own subjects to adore them. Therefore the prophet Jehu harshly condemns the crime of Baasha’s ungrateful soul in this passage and proclaims the revenge which will strike him shortly. So Baasha was deprived of his kingdom and life for this reason, and after the killing of Elah, his son and successor, in the second year of his reign, Zimri took hold of the power and kept it for seven days, as is written. Then he was put under siege by Omri in Tirzah, and after the city had been conquered, [Zimri] took refuge in the palace and set himself on fire together with the royal house. Omri, the founder of Samaria, succeeded him. He died after

twelve years and left his reign to his son. ON THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS 16:1.⁵

Friday, July 11

- Read **Proverbs 9**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 18-20**

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: (1 Kings 18:17-18) Were Elijah and John then lacking in boldness? Did not the one reprove Ahab, and the other Herod? The latter said, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother Philip's wife." And Elijah said to Ahab with boldness: "It is not I that trouble Israel, but you and your father's house." You see that this poverty especially produces boldness? For while the rich person is a slave, being subject and in the power of every one wishing to do him hurt, one who has nothing fears no confiscation or fine. So, if poverty had made people to lack in boldness, Christ would not have sent his disciples with poverty to a work requiring great boldness. ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 18.4.⁶

⁵ Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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⁶ Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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Saturday, July 12

- Read **Proverbs 10**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 21-22**

ORIGEN: (1 Kings 22:21-22) I think every evil and deceitful spirit is a lie, and whenever anyone of these speaks, it speaks from its own resources and by no means from the resources of God. And the father of these [spirits] is the liar, the devil. We will now present what moved us to say that every inferior spirit is false. It is written in the third book of Kings that at the time Micaiah was called by Ahab to prophesy concerning whether he should go to Ramoth-gilead for war or stay, he said, "I saw the God of Israel sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven stood around him on his right and on his left. And he said, 'Who will deceive Ahab, king of Israel, and he will go up and fall in Ramoth-gilead?' " And he spoke in this manner. And a spirit came forth and stood before the Lord and said, "I will deceive him." And the Lord said to him, "By what means?" And he said, "I will go forth and will be a false spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours.' "

And in the second book of Paralipomenon, the same Micaiah says to Ahab and Jehoshaphat, "Hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and every power of heaven stood at his right and at his left. And the Lord said, 'Who will deceive Ahab, king of Israel, and he will go up and fall in Ramoth-gilead?' " And he spoke in this manner. And a spirit came forth and stood before the Lord and said, "I will deceive him." And the Lord said, "By