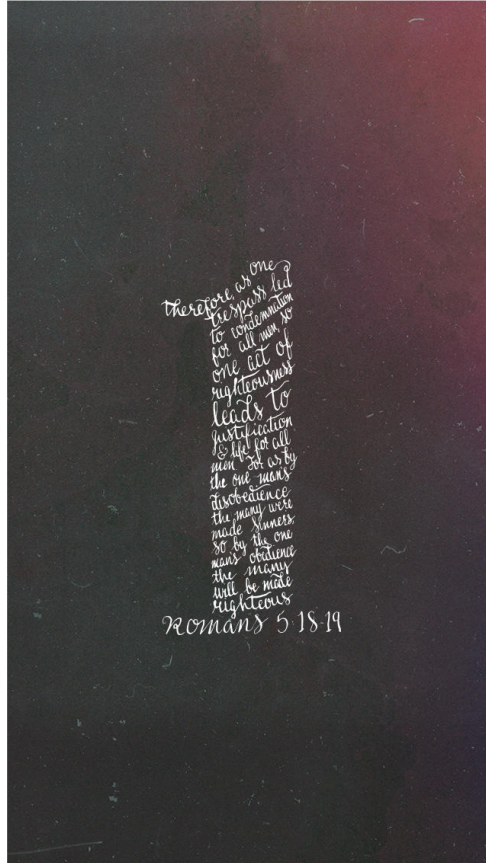


**Congregation at Prayer
2021
A Daily Devotional for St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA**



Seventh Week after Pentecost

Summer Week #8-Year 2

July 11-July 17, 2021

Start Every Day

Speak or chant: Psalm 119:97-112

recite APOSTLE'S CREED

VERSE: Romans 5:19 **"For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."**

Sunday, July 11

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Ephesians 1:3-14 (Sermon Text, 7th Sunday after Pentecost)
 - **CHRYSOSTOM:** What he means is this: The one through whom he has blessed us is the one through whom he has elected us.... Christ chose us to have faith in him before we came into being, indeed even before the world was founded. The word *foundation* was well chosen, to indicate that it was laid down from some great height. For great and ineffable is the height of God, not in a particular place

but rather in his remoteness from nature. So great is the distance between creature and Creator. HOMILY ON EPHESIANS 1.1.4.¹

- **CHRYSOSTOM:** The sanctified life is not the effect of our labors or achievements but of God's love. It is not born of love alone or of our own virtue. For if it were from love alone, all ought to be saved. Again, if it were from our virtue his earthly appearing and the whole of his work would be unnecessary. But it is not from love alone or from our virtue but from God through God.... Virtue would have saved no one had there been no love.... For to become virtuous and to believe and to advance, this too was the work of the One who called us, even though it is something we can share. HOMILY ON EPHESIANS 1.1.5.²

Monday, July 12

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Mark 11:20-33 (The Lesson of the Fig Tree and Jesus' Authority)

Tuesday, July 13

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Mark 12:1-12 (The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers)

Wednesday, July 14

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Mark 12:13-17 (Render to Caesar the Things that Are Caesar's)

Thursday, July 15

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Mark 12:18-27 (The Sadducees Question Jesus About the Resurrection)

Friday, July 16 (Ruth)

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Mark 12:28-44 (The Greatest Commandment)
- **About Ruth**

Ruth of Moab, the subject of the biblical book that bears her name, is an inspiring example of God's grace. Although she was a Gentile, God made her the great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17), and an ancestress of Jesus himself (Mt 1:5). A famine in Israel led Elimelech and Naomi of Bethlehem to emigrate to the neighboring nation of Moab with their two sons. The sons married Moabite women,

¹ M. J. Edwards, ed., [Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 110–111.

² M. J. Edwards, ed., [Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 111.

Orpah and Ruth, but after about ten years, Elimelech and his sons died (Ruth 1:1–5). Naomi then decided to return to Bethlehem and urged her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Orpah listened to Naomi's but Ruth refused, replying with the stirring words: "Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). After Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, Boaz, a close relative of Elimelech, agreed to be Ruth's "redeemer" (Ruth 3:7–13; 4:9–12). He took her as his wife, and Ruth gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of David (Ruth 4:13–17), thus preserving the Messianic seed. Ruth's kindness and selfless loyalty toward Naomi, and her faith in Naomi's God, have long endeared her to the faithful and redounded to God's praise for his merciful choice of one so unexpected.

Saturday, July 17

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—6th Commandment & Meaning
- Read Jeremiah 23:1-6 (Old Testament Lesson, 8th Sunday after Pentecost)

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE (from *Lutheran Service Book*) by CPH

Sunday:	Acts 15:6-21
Monday:	Galatians 1:1-24
Tuesday:	Galatians 2:1-21
Wednesday:	Galatians 3:1-22
Thursday:	Galatians 3:23-4:11
Friday:	Galatians 4:12-31
Saturday:	Galatians 5:1-26

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 7th Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same 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

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.

CATECHETICAL HYMN *from Lutheran Service Book*

555 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"