

The Congregation at Prayer

# Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

MATTHEW 9:37B-38

**Third Week after Pentecost**

June 14-June 21, 2026

**Start Every Day**

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

recite **APOSTLE’S CREED**

VERSE: Matthew 9:37-38 ***“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.”***

*Read/Chant Psalm 100*

**CATECHISM—*Who receives this sacrament worthily?***

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

**Sunday, June 14**

- Read **John 15:1-11**
- *Secondary reading:* **Proverbs 14:1-27**

AMBROSE: Jacob spoke of [our Lord as] a grape, because Christ hung on the wood like a grape. He is the vine; he is the grape. He is the vine because he cleaves to the wood and the grape because, when his side was opened by the soldier’s lance, he sent forth water and blood<sup>3</sup> ... water for baptism, blood for redemption. The water washed us; the blood redeemed us. ON THE PATRIARCHS 4.24.<sup>1</sup>

**Monday, June 15**

- Read **John 15:12-27**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Proverbs 15:1-29**

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<sup>1</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

## Prayer Requests



EPHREM THE SYRIAN: “This is my commandment.” Have you then only one precept? This is sufficient, even if it is unique and so great. Nevertheless he also said, “Do not kill,” because the one who loves does not kill. He said, “Do not steal,”<sup>9</sup> because the one who loves does even more—he gives. He said, “Do not lie,” for the one who loves speaks the truth, against falsehood. “I give you a new commandment.”<sup>11</sup> If you have not understood what “This is my commandment” means, let the apostle be summoned as interpreter and say, “The goal of his commandment is love.” What is its binding force? It is that of which [the Lord] spoke, “Whatever you want others to do to you, you should do also.”<sup>13</sup> “Love one another” in accordance with this measure, “as I have loved you.” That is not possible, for you are our Lord who loves your servants. But we who are equals, how can we love one another as you have loved us? Nevertheless, he has said it.... His love is that he has called us his friends. If we were to give our life for you, would our love be equal to yours?... How then can what he said be explained, “As I have loved you”? “Let us die for each other,” he said. As for us, we do not even want to live for one another! “If I, who am your Lord and God, die for you, how much more should you die for one another.” COMMENTARY ON TATIAN’S DIATESSARON 19.13.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient

## **Tuesday, June 16**

- Read **John 16:1-16**
- *Secondary Reading: Proverbs 16:1-24*

BEDE: The Savior warned his disciples ahead of time that they would not only be driven away from fellowship with their fellow citizens but also that they would suffer death at their hands. The Jews thought that they were doing a service to God in pursuing the ministers of the new covenant with hatred and death. The apostle says, “For I bear witness to them that they have zeal for God, but not according to full knowledge.” Here, it is as if he were saying, “You are going to suffer battles and tribulations from your fellow citizens, but accept them the more steadfastly in the realization that you are afflicted with them not so much out of hatred toward yourselves as out of zeal for the divine law.” Mindful of this advice, the blessed martyr Stephen prayed for his slayers. Those zealous for the Law thought that they were doing a service to God when they were murdering the heralds of grace. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS 2.16.<sup>3</sup>

## **Wednesday, June 17**

- Read **John 16:17-33**
- *Secondary Reading: Proverbs 17:1-28*

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

<sup>3</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

D 4 O Spirit, who didst once restore  
Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men,  
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,  
That in these gray and latter days  
There may be those whose life is praise,  
Each life a high doxology  
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

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### 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.

### 834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

- 1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,  
Thy living finger never wrote  
That life should be an aimless mote,  
A deathward drift from futile birth.  
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled  
In splendor through Thy broken world.  
Since light awoke and life began,  
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.
- 2 Our fatal will to equal Thee,  
Our rebel will wrought death and night.  
We seized and used in prideful spite  
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.  
We housed us in this house of doom,  
Where death had royal scope and room,  
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,  
Breached all its walls for our release.
- 3 Thou camest to our hall of death,  
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
To drink for us the dark despair  
That strangled our reluctant breath.  
How beautiful the feet that trod  
The road that leads us back to God!  
How beautiful the feet that ran  
To bring the great good news to man!

TERTULLIAN: If we rejoice with the world, it is to be feared that we shall also mourn with the world. But let us mourn while the world rejoices, and we shall afterward rejoice when the world mourns. ON IDOLATRY 13.<sup>4</sup>

### Thursday, June 18

- Read **John 17:1-26**
- *Secondary Reading: Proverbs 20:5-25*

AUGUSTINE: Our Lord, the only begotten who is co-eternal with the Father but who also took the form of a servant, could have prayed in silence if need be. But by praying out loud he wanted to show himself as one who prayed to the Father; he remembered that he not only had to pray but to teach. And so, the prayer that he offered for us, he also made known to us. For it was not only his discourse but also his prayers that were a source of edification for his disciples—and for us who read it today. TRACTATES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 104.2.<sup>5</sup>

### Friday, June 19

- Read **John 18:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading: Proverbs 22:1-21*

QUODVULTDEUS: They come with their torches, lanterns and weapons. The many seek the one, and

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<sup>4</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>5</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

the sons of darkness come, bearing in their hands light, through which they would reveal the true Light to others, the true Light that they themselves, blinded, were not able to hold in their heart.... Behold, the true Light, who lies hidden here under the cloud of flesh, looks at the darkness, and it fell to the ground.... In order that the Light might accomplish what it came for, however, the darkness gets back up. He gives [the darkness] power over himself. Darkness seizes the Light, not to follow but to kill it. The Light permits himself to be seized by darkness, to be led away, to be hung, to be killed, in order that, stripped of the cloud of flesh, he might restore the splendor of his majesty. THIRD HOMILY ON THE CREED 5.14–17.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Saturday, June 20**

- Read **John 18:15-40**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Proverbs 22:22-23:12**

CHRYSOSTOM: Here Jesus shows the weakness of kingship among us. He demonstrates that its strength lies in servants. But that which is above is sufficient of itself. It needs nothing.... And so, he also says that his kingdom is not from this world—not depriving the world of his providence and governance but rather showing, as I said, that his

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<sup>6</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

power was not human or perishable. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 83.4.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Sunday, June 21**

- Read **John 19:1-22**
- *Second Reading:* **Proverbs 24:1-22**

#### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the *Collect for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; 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**

#### **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.

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<sup>7</sup> Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.