

## 719 I LEAVE ALL THINGS TO GOD'S DIRECTION

- 1 I leave all things to God's direction;  
He loves me both in joy and woe.  
His will is good, sure His affection;  
His tender love is true, I know.  
My fortress and my rock is He:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;  
His love for me will never cease.  
Upon His hands He did engrave me  
With purest gold of loving grace.  
His will supreme must ever be:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul's salvation;  
My soul He, too, desires to save.  
Therefore with Christian resignation  
All earthly troubles I will brave.  
His will be done eternally:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;  
He is the ever faithful friend.  
He gives me laughter after weeping,  
And all His ways in blessings end.  
His love endures eternally:  
What pleases God, that pleases me.

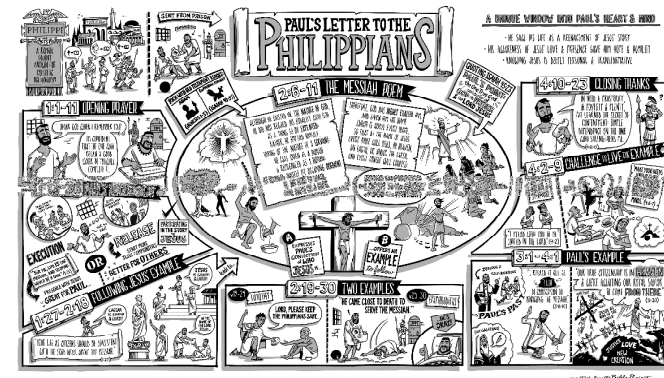
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## The Congregation at Prayer The Whole Story

2025

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



**Week #23-The Whole Story**  
**Seventh Week of Easter**  
June 1-June 8, 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 Apostles Creed: Second  
Article—What does this Mean?**

*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, purchased 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.

VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ***“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”***

#### **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,

#### **Pray the Collect for the Ascension of Our Lord**

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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.

times were at the head of the people, though individually the judges were of different tribes, yet speaking generally the tribe of Judah was head of the whole people; and much more so in the times of David and his successors, who belonged to the tribe of Judah and continued to rule until the Babylonian captivity, after which the leader of those who returned from Babylon to their own land was Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, of the tribe of Judah, who also built the temple. Hence, too, the book of Chronicles, when giving the genealogies of the twelve tribes of Israel, begins with Judah.<sup>2</sup> And you will see it follows from this that in the days that succeeded, the same tribe had the headship, although different individuals had temporary leadership, whose tribes it is impossible to decide with accuracy, because there is no sacred book handed down to give the history of the period from then to the time of our Savior. THE PROOF OF THE GOSPEL 8.1.<sup>7</sup>

### **Sunday, June 8**

- Read **History Book: Judges 4-6**

### **End Every Day**

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<sup>7</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday, June 1**

- Read **Psalm 148** (Hallelujah! Praise YHWH from the heavens)
- Read **History Book: Joshua 1-5**

**CHRYSOSTOM:** (Joshua 1:1-2) The name of Jesus [Joshua] was a type. For this reason then, and because of the very name, the creation revered him. What then! Was no other person called Jesus [Joshua]? But this man was on this account so called as a type; for he used to be called Hoshea. Therefore the name was changed: for it was a prediction and a prophecy. He brought in the people into the promised land, as Jesus into heaven; not the law; since neither did Moses [enter the promised land] but remained outside. The law has not power to bring in, but grace. HOMILIES ON HEBREWS 27.6.<sup>1</sup>

### **Monday, June 2**

- Read **Psalm 149** (Hallelujah! Sing to YHWH a new song)
- Read **History Book: Joshua 6-8**

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<sup>1</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

**BEDE:** (Joshua 6:26) It is said of the time when Ahab reigned, “In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho; he laid its foundations in Abiram, his firstborn; and he set up its gates in Segub, his youngest son.” The apparent sense is that when the above-mentioned city’s builder began to lay its foundations, his firstborn, named Abiram, died; and that after the city had been built, when he tried to fortify its gates, he lost his youngest son, named Segub. Joshua predicted that this would happen when, after Jericho’s destruction he made it anathema by cursing it, saying, “Cursed be the man before the Lord that shall raise up and build the city of Jericho, and in his firstborn may he lay its foundation, and in the last of his children set up its gates.” Because Hiel is translated as “living for God” and Bethel as “house of God,” Hiel of Bethel restores Jericho’s walls (which Joshua had destroyed and cursed) whenever any who have taken up the religious life in the church resume doing the evil deeds for which the Lord Jesus forgave them on the day of [their] baptism and whenever they who have renounced the devil’s pomp return to it by wanton living or prefer false doctrines or Gentile fables to the church’s truth in which they were instructed. THIRTY QUESTIONS ON THE BOOK OF KINGS 16.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian

least that everyone’s conscience would be wounded by the force of the reminder. So those who have been entrusted with the care of souls provide various kinds of witnesses to testify at a future date. But the Spirit is organically united with God, not because of the needs of each moment but through communion in the divine nature. He is joined to the Lord; he is not brought in by our efforts. ON THE SPIRIT 13.30.<sup>6</sup>

### **Saturday, June 7**

- Read **History Book: Judges 1-3**

**EUSEBIUS OF CAESARIA:** (Judges 1:1-2) And in the book of Joshua, son of Nave [Nun], when the land of promise was divided by lot among the other tribes, the tribe of Judah took its own portion of the land without casting lots, and first of all. And, moreover, “After the death of Joshua the children of Israel inquired of the Lord, saying, who shall go up for us against the Canaanite, leading our fighting against him? And the Lord said, Judah shall go up. Behold, I have given the land into his hands.” These words, then, make it clear that God ordained the tribe of Judah to be the head of all Israel, and the account goes on ... And in the book of Judges, when different persons at different

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<sup>6</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

keeps all things in check by his command and rules them and binds them by a harmony of nature. Therefore the Word of God lives, and he lives most of all in the souls of the holy, and the fullness of the Godhead never dies. For God's everlasting divinity and eternal power never die. To be sure, he dies to us if he is separated from our soul, not that our spirit is destroyed by death, but that it is loosened and stripped from union with him. Yes, true death is the separation of the Word from the soul. Thereupon, the soul begins at once to be open to sins of volition. FLIGHT FROM THE WORLD 2.13.<sup>5</sup>

### **Friday, June 6**

- Read **History Book: Joshua 22-24**

**BASIL THE GREAT:** (Joshua 24:27) Joshua, the son of Nun, even calls a stone to give testimony (a heap of stones had already been called to testify between Jacob and Laban) when he said, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the Lord which he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God." Perhaps he believed that the power of God would enable the stones to cry out in testimony against the transgressors or at

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<sup>5</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

### **Tuesday, June 3**

- Read **Psalm 150** (Hallelujah! Praise God in his sanctuary)
- Read **History Book: Joshua 9-11**

**ORIGEN:** (Joshua 10:1-7) There is no doubt that when a human soul associates itself with the Word of God, it is immediately going to have enemies, and that those it once considered friends will be changed into adversaries. The soul should not only expect to suffer this from humans, but it should also know that such will likewise be forthcoming from opposing powers and spiritual iniquities. Thus it happens that whoever longs for friendship with Jesus knows he must tolerate the hostilities of many....

Even now, therefore, the Gibeonites, such as they are, are assaulted because of friendship with Jesus [Joshua], even though they are "hewers of wood and carriers of water." That is, although you are the least worthy in the church, nevertheless, because you belong to Jesus, you will be assailed by five kings.

The Gibeonites, however, are not abandoned or scorned by Jesus [Joshua] or by the leaders and

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elders of the Israelites; instead they offer help for their weakness. HOMILIES ON JOSHUA 11.2.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, June 4**

- Read **History Book: Joshua 12-16**

**ORIGEN:** (Joshua 12:1-24) And if “a wise man shall understand the words from his own mouth and shall hear knowledge on his lips,” we must either declare rashly that the prophets were not wise, if they have not understood “the words from their own mouth,” or admit that the prophets were wise, because they have received what is correct and true and have understood “the words from their own mouth” and borne knowledge on their lips. It is clear that Moses saw in his mind the truth of the law and the allegorical meanings related to the anagogical sense of the stories he recorded, and that Joshua understood the true distribution of land which took place after the overthrow of the twenty-nine kings,<sup>3</sup> since he could see better than us that the things accomplished through himself were shadows of certain realities. COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 6.21–22.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

<sup>4</sup> Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [\*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel\*](#). Ancient Christian

### **Thursday, June 5**

- Read **History Book: Joshua 17-21**

**AMBROSE:** (Joshua 20:6) There remains ... what Scripture says concerning the death of the chief priest, “that the homicide shall be in the city of refuge even to that time, until the high priest dies.” In this passage the literal interpretation causes difficulty. First, the period of flight is limited by chance rather than by any consideration of fairness; further, in like cases the result is unlike. For it could happen that the high priest might die on the day after the homicide took refuge. However, what is the meaning beneath the uncertainty? And so, because the letter causes difficulty, let us search for spiritual meanings. Who is that high priest but the Son of God, the Word of God? We enjoy his advocacy in our behalf before the Father,<sup>2</sup> for he is free from every offense, both willed and unintentional, and in him subsist all things which are on earth and which are in heaven. For all things have been bound by the bond of the Word and are held together by his power and subsist in him, because in him they have been created and in him all God’s fullness dwells. And so all things endure, because he does not allow what things he has bound to be loosened, since they subsist in his will. Indeed, so long as he wills, he

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