

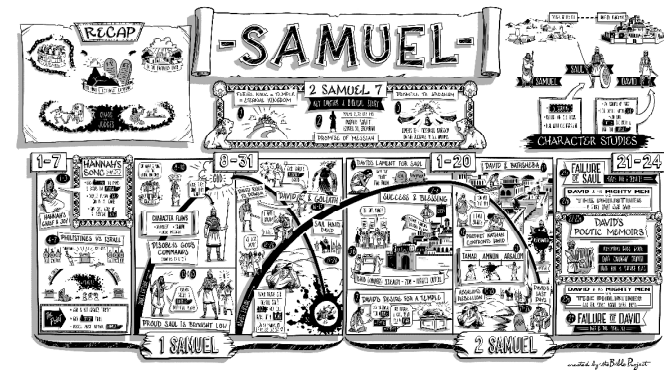
Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #24-The Whole Story

Week of Trinity

June 22-June 29, 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 1**

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit. The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite. In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, and the Holy Spirit is almighty; yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
- 4 The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our victory has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

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.

656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.
- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

VERSE: Romans 5:8 ***"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."***

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, June 22

- Read **History Book: 1 Samuel 22-24**

CASSIODORUS: (1 Sam. 24:3) David, as we have said, took on the character of the Lord Savior, and so what was to take place at the Lord's passion is now recounted of him. David was not to be effaced from the kingdom allotted to him, just as the inscription of the Lord's title could not be changed. The psalmist added, "When he fled from Saul into the cave." This incident seems to be very similar in the cases of both David and the Lord. Just as David in fleeing from Saul hid in a cave, so the Lord Savior's divinity is known to have been hidden within the temple of his body from the unfaithful Jews. In this way the individual events concerning David and Christ are shared by them in this respect. EXPOSITION OF THE PSALMS 56.1.¹

¹ Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel*](#). Ancient Christian

Monday, June 23

- Read **History Book: 1 Samuel 25-27**

CYPRIAN: (1 Samuel 26:8-11) But what great and wonderful and Christian patience is to be found in David from whom Christ descended according to the flesh! David often had the opportunity to kill King Saul, his persecutor, who was eager to destroy him. Yet when Saul was subject to him and in his power, David preferred to save his life and did not retaliate on his enemy but, on the contrary, even avenged him when he was killed. In short, many prophets have been killed, many martyrs have been honored with glorious deaths, and all have attained their heavenly crowns through the merit of patience, for a crown for sorrow and suffering cannot be obtained unless patience in sorrow and suffering precede. THE ADVANTAGE OF PATIENCE 10.²

Tuesday, June 24

- Read **History Book: 1 Samuel 28-31**

AUGUSTINE: (1 Samuel 28:3) As has been said already, the sacred record, like a faithful mirror, has no flattery in its portraits and either itself

Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

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

Sunday, June 29

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 13-15**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 1st Sunday after Trinity*

O God, the strength of all who trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You in both will and deed; 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.

Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

for as the Son of God. Then, again, the throne forever with the kingdom forever is more suited to Christ than to Solomon, a mere temporal king.

AGAINST MARCION 3.20.⁶

Saturday, June 28

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 10-12**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (2 Samuel 11:14-15) Well-pleasing in almost all of his actions in the judgment of him who had chosen him, so soon as the burden of his obligations was not upon him, he broke out into festering conceit and showed himself as harsh and cruel in the murder of a man as he had been weakly dissolute in his desire for a woman. And he who had known how in pity to spare the wicked learned afterwards without let or hesitation to pant for the death of even the good. At first he had, indeed, been unwilling to strike down his captive persecutor, but afterwards, with loss to his wearied army, he killed even his loyal soldier. His guilt would, in fact, have removed him a long way from the number of the elect, had not scourgings restored him to pardon. PASTORAL CARE 1.3.⁷

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

⁷ Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel*](#). Ancient Christian

passes sentence upon human actions as worthy of approval or disapproval or leaves the reader to do so. And not only does it distinguish people as blameworthy or praiseworthy, but it also takes notice of cases where the blameworthy deserved praise, and the praiseworthy blame. Thus, although Saul was blameworthy, it was not the less praiseworthy in him to examine so carefully who had eaten food during the curse and to pronounce the stern sentence in obedience to the commandment of God. So, too, he was right in banishing those that had familiar spirits and wizards out of the land. And although David was praiseworthy, we are not called on to approve or imitate his sins, which God rebukes by the prophet.² AGAINST FAUSTUS, A MANICHAEAN 22.65.³

Wednesday, June 25

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 1-3**

JOHN CASSIAN: (2 Samuel 1:14-16) We know that David went beyond the precepts of the law when, despite Moses' command to pay back one's enemies in kind, he not only did not do this but even embraced his persecutors in love, prayed devoutly to the Lord on their behalf, even wept

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

mournfully for them and revenged them when they were slain. CONFERENCE 21.4.2.⁴

Thursday, June 26

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 4-6**

JOHN CASSIAN: (2 Samuel 5:1) We find that the word flesh is used in holy Scripture with many different meanings: for sometimes it stands for the whole person, that is, for that which consists of body and soul, as here: “And the Word was made flesh,”² and “All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.”² Sometimes it stands for sinful and carnal people, as here: “My spirit shall not remain in those men, because they are flesh.” Sometimes it is used for sins themselves, as here: “But you are not in the flesh but in the spirit,”⁴ and again, “Flesh and blood shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Lastly there follows, “Neither shall corruption inherit incorruption.” Sometimes [as with David] it stands for unity and relationship, as here: “Behold we are your bone and your flesh,” and the apostle says, “If by any means I may provoke to emulation them who are my flesh, and save some of them.”⁶ We must therefore inquire in which of these four

⁴ Franke, John R., ed. 2005. [*Old Testament IV: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1–2 Samuel*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

meanings we ought to take the word flesh in this place. CONFERENCE 4.10.⁵

Friday, June 27

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 7-9**

TERTULLIAN: (2 Samuel 7:12-13) That new dispensation, then, which is found in Christ now, will prove to be what the Creator then promised under the appellation of “the sure mercies of David,” which were Christ’s, inasmuch as Christ sprang from David, or rather his very flesh itself was David’s “sure mercies,” consecrated by religion, and “sure” after its resurrection. Accordingly the prophet Nathan, in the first [book] of Kings [Samuel], makes a promise to David for his seed, “which shall proceed,” he says, “from your own body.” Now, if you explain this simply of Solomon, you will send me into a fit of laughter. For David will evidently have brought forth Solomon! But is not Christ here designated the seed of David, as of that womb which was derived from David, that is, Mary’s? Now, because Christ rather than any other was to build the temple of God, that is to say, a holy manhood, wherein God’s Spirit might dwell as in a better temple, Christ rather than David’s son Solomon was to be looked

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