

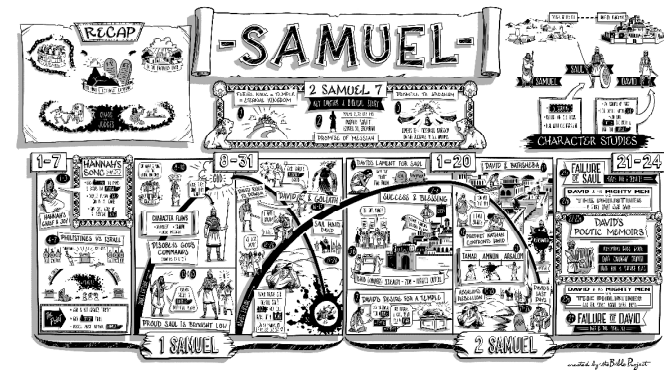
Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #25-The Whole Story

2nd Week after Trinity

June 29-July 6, 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 Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

4 And though it tarry through the night
And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait for His appearing.

5 Though great our sins, yet greater still
Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: Public domain

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.

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,
Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?
- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.

VERSE: 1 John 1:8-9 ***"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

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 29

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

SALVIAN THE PRESBYTER: (2 Samuel 13:36-38) This is the first introduction of divine punishment; the first but not the only one. A long series of great tribulations followed, and an almost unending succession of misfortunes scarcely left his house. Tamar was corrupted by the madness of Amnon, and Amnon was slain by Absalom. A grave crime was committed by one brother, but it was avenged more grievously by the other. In this way David, the father, was punished for the crimes of both. Two sons sinned, but three suffered for the crime of two; Tamar lost her virginity, and the loss of Absalom was mourned in Amnon. Indeed, you cannot tell for which of these two sons the loving father mourned more grievously: for him who was slain in this world by his brother's hand [Amnon] or

for him who perished in the next because of killing by his own hand [Absalom]. THE GOVERNANCE OF GOD 2.5.¹

Monday, June 30

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 16-18**

AUGUSTINE: (2 Samuel 16:9-13) By this patience we are supported even when we are in sound health, for, amid the stumbling blocks of this world, our true happiness is deferred.... With this patience holy David endured the insults of one abusing him, and, though he could easily have wreaked vengeance on him, he not only did not do this but even calmed another who was grieved and disturbed on his account and used his royal power to forbid rather than to exercise vengeance. He was not then suffering from any bodily disease or wound. But he did recognize the time of humility and accepted the will of God for whose sake he drank in the bitter reproach with the utmost patience. ON PATIENCE 9.8.²

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

with due weight and reflection: “And he was laid with his fathers.” We are given to understand that his faith was like that of his father’s. It is clear, then, that there is reference here to participation in life and not to the burial of a body. CAIN AND ABEL 1.5.⁷

Sunday, July 6

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

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 2nd Sunday after Trinity*

O Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; 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

⁷ 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.

Friday, July 4

- Read **Proverbs 2**
- Read **Wisdom Books: Song of Solomon 5-8**

AUGUSTINE: (Sonog of Song 8:6) Rightly is [love] said to be “strong as death,” either because no one overcomes it as no one overcomes death, or because in this life the measure of charity is unto death, as the Lord said: “Greater love than this no man has, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Or, rather, because as death tears the soul away from the senses of the flesh, so charity tears it away from carnal passions. LETTER 167.11.⁶

Saturday, July 5

- Read **Proverbs 3**
- Read **History Book: 1 Kings 1-2**

AMBROSE: (1 Kings 2:10) By Abel we understand the Christian who cleaves to God, as David says: “It is good for me to adhere to my God,” that is, to attach oneself to heavenly things and to shun the earthly. Elsewhere he says, “My soul has fainted in your word,”⁵ thus indicating his rule of life was directed toward reflections on the Word and not on the pleasures of this world. Wherefore we realize that what we read concerning David in the book of Kings is not an idle statement but is said

⁶ Wright, J. Robert, ed. 2005. [Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

Tuesday, July 1

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 19-21**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (2 Samuel 19:27) Why are you surprised, Peter, that we who are but human make mistakes? Have you forgotten that it was David’s reliance on the untruthful words of a servant that caused him to pronounce sentence against the innocent son of Jonathan?² And David had the spirit of prophecy. But, since David did this, we can be sure that in God’s secret judgment he acted justly, even though we cannot see the justice of it with our human reason. Why should we be surprised, then, if we who are not prophets are sometimes led astray by deceitful people? An important point to consider is that the mind of a superior is distracted by a world of cares, and once the attention is preoccupied with a variety of matters it becomes less observant of details. One who is occupied with a multitude of affairs is all the more liable to be misled in regard to any one of them. DIALOGUE 1.4.³

Wednesday, July 2

- Read **History Book: 2 Samuel 22-24**

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.

CAESARIUS OF ARLES: (2 Samuel 24:18-21) Notice, brothers, that no place in the land of the Jews was found worthy for the altar of the Lord to be built; but in the land of the Gentiles a place is chosen where the angel is seen and the altar of the Lord is built, and thus the wrath of the almighty Lord is appeased. Then already was prefigured the fact that in the hearts of the Jews no worthy place could be found to offer spiritual victims; the land of the Gentiles, that is, the conscience of Christians, is chosen as the place for the Lord's temple. This the apostle clearly indicates when he rebukes the Jews and says, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first, but since you have judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we now turn to the Gentiles." This means [that] because you have rejected Christ and have not prepared a worthy place on which to set the Lord's altar, we will put it in the land of the Gentiles, that is, in the hearts of all the people. For this reason the same apostle exclaims to us, "Holy is the temple of God, and you are this temple."² Now notice, dearly beloved, that the land of the Gentile king was chosen at the time when the Jewish people were struck by God's plague. This we see fulfilled in the Lord's passion; for when the Jewish people rejected the Lord and crucified him, then his altar was consecrated on the threshing floor of the Gentiles, that is, on every land. That is why the angel of the Lord stood on the threshing floor of

the Gentile king; the true angel, Christ, visited the people of the Gentiles. SERMON 122.1.⁴

Thursday, July 3

- Read **Proverbs 1**
- Read **Books of Wisdom: Song of Solomon 1-4**

ORIGEN: (Song of Solomon 1:1) This book seems to me to be an *epithalamium*, that is, a marriage song, written by Solomon in the style of a drama, which he sang like a bride who is getting married and burning with a heavenly love toward her husband, which is the Word of God....

Let us come to the things that must be discussed: first, to examine a few things about love itself, which is the main reason for this writing, and next about the order of the books of Solomon, in which this book seems to have been placed in the third place. Then we will examine the title of the book itself, why it is given the superscription "Song of Songs." COMMENTARY ON THE SONG OF SONGS, PROLOGUE.⁵

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.

⁵ Wright, J. Robert, ed. 2005. [*Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.