

Prayer  
Requests



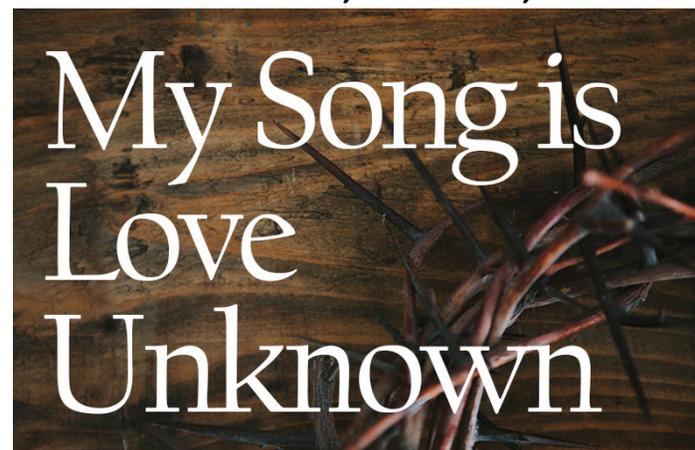
The Congregation at Prayer

# Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



**Passion Week**

March 22-March 29, 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: Luke 10:2 ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."***

*Read/Chant Psalm 130*

**CATECHISM—Holy Baptism—Which is that word of God?**

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

**Sunday, March 22**

- Read **Mark 14:12-31**
- *Secondary reading:* **Exodus 1:1-22**

JUSTIN MARTYR: When the president has given thanks and the whole congregation has assented, those whom we call deacons give to each of those present a portion of the consecrated bread and wine and water. They then take it to those absent. This food we call Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake except one who believes that the things we teach are true, and has received the washing for forgiveness of sins and for rebirth, and who lives according to the way Christ handed down to us. For we do not receive these things as common bread or common drink; but as Jesus Christ our Savior being incarnate by God’s Word took flesh and blood for our salvation, so also we have been taught that the food consecrated by the word of prayer which comes from him, from which our flesh and blood are nourished by transformation, is the flesh and blood of that incarnate Jesus. For the apostles in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, thus

- 5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suff’ring goes  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav’n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

*Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683*  
*Text: Public domain*

### 430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
Themselves displease  
And 'gainst Him rise.

handed down what was commanded them: that Jesus, taking bread and having given thanks, said, "Do this in remembrance of me. This is my body"; and similarly taking the cup and giving thanks he said, "This is my blood"; and gave it to them alone.<sup>4</sup> FIRST APOLOGY 65–66.<sup>1</sup>

### Monday, March 23

- Read **Mark 14:32-52**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 2:1-22*

TERTULLIAN: He clearly acknowledged that his "soul was sorrowful, even unto death," and his flesh weak. His intention was to show, from his troubled soul and weak flesh, that both his soul and body were fully human. For some have wrongly asserted that either the flesh or soul of Christ might be entirely different from ours. He sought by an extraordinary exhibition of the body-soul interaction, to show that neither body nor soul has any power at all of itself apart from the spirit. This is why he states first that the spirit is willing, so that you may understand that you have within you the spirit's strength and not merely the weakness of the flesh. From this it is hoped that you may learn what to do under challenge, by what means to do it, and how to order priorities. The weak

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<sup>1</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

must be brought under the strong—the flesh under the spirit. This will help you avoid making excuses, as you are now prone to do, for the weakness of your flesh while failing to understand the strength of the spirit.<sup>13</sup> ON FLIGHT AMID PERSECUTION 8.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, March 24**

- Read **Mark 14:53-72**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 2:23-3:22**

#### **THE TEMPLE BUILT BY HANDS. PRUDENTIUS:**

Do not the quarried stones of Solomon  
Now lie in ruins, that temple built by hand?  
Why so? The mortal hand of mason wrought  
That short-lived work. It rightly lies in ruins,  
Since every work of art returns to nought.  
All that is made is doomed one day to fall.  
Learn what our temple is, if you would know;  
It is one that no artisan has built,  
A structure not of riven fir or pine,  
Nor reared with blocks of quarried marble fair.  
Its massive weight no columns high support  
Beneath the arches of a gilded vault.  
By God's Word it was formed, not by his voice,  
But by the everlasting Word, the Word made  
flesh.  
This temple is eternal, without end,

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<sup>2</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

### **Sunday, March 15**

- Read **Hebrews 1:1-14**
- *Second Reading:* **Exodus 8:1-32**

#### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the *Collect for Passion Sunday***

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. 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.

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with him. Yesterday I died with him; today I am given life with him. Yesterday I was buried with him; today I rise again with him. ON THE HOLY PASCH AND HIS OWN RELUCTANCE.<sup>6</sup>

### **Saturday, March 21**

- Read **Mark 16:1-20**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 7:1-25*

#### **THE STONE COULD NOT HOLD HIM. PRUDENTIUS:**

Neither the stone nor the bolts of the tomb  
could hold Christ a captive;  
Death lies conquered by him, he has  
trampled on hell's fiery chasm.  
With him a throng of saints ascended to  
heavenly regions,  
And to many he showed himself, letting  
them see and touch him.

SCENES FROM SACRED HISTORY 43, THE SEPULCHER OF  
CHRIST.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>7</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

This you attacked with scourge and cross and  
gall.

This temple was destroyed by bitter pains.  
Its form was fragile from the mother's womb,  
But when brief death the mother's part  
dissolved,

The Father's might restored it in three days.  
THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, March 25**

- Read **Mark 15:1-15**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 4:1-18*

AUGUSTINE: This silence of our Lord Jesus Christ took place more than once. It occurred before the chief priest, and before Herod, and before Pilate himself. So it was not in vain that the prophecy regarding him had preceded: "As the lamb before its shearer was dumb, so he opened not his mouth,"<sup>17</sup> especially on those occasions when he did not answer his questioners. Usually he replied to questions addressed to him, but in this case he declined to make any reply. The metaphor of the lamb is used to indicate that his silence does not imply guilt but innocence. When he did not open his mouth as he passed through the process of judgment, it was in the character of a lamb that he did so; that is, not as one with an evil conscience

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<sup>3</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. [Mark \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

who was convicted of his sins, but as one who in his meekness was sacrificed for the sins of others. TRACTATES ON JOHN 116.4.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Thursday, March 26**

- Read **Mark 15:16-32**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 4:19-31**

**WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS.** JOHN OF DAMASCUS: By nothing else except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ has death been brought low:

The sin of our first parent destroyed,  
hell plundered,  
resurrection bestowed,  
the power given us to despise the things of this world,  
even death itself,  
the road back to the former blessedness made smooth,  
the gates of paradise opened,  
our nature seated at the right hand of God,  
and we made children and heirs of God.  
By the cross all these things have been set aright....  
It is a seal that the destroyer may not strike us,  
a raising up of those who lie fallen,  
a support for those who stand,  
a staff for the infirm,

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<sup>4</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

a crook for the shepherded,  
a guide for the wandering,  
a perfecting of the advanced,  
salvation for soul and body,  
a deflector of all evils,  
a cause of all goods,  
a destruction of sin,  
a plant of resurrection,  
and a tree of eternal life.

ORTHODOX FAITH 4..<sup>5</sup>

#### **Friday, March 27**

- Read **Mark 15:33-47**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 5:1-6:1**

GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS: Yesterday the lamb was slain, and the door posts sprinkled with his blood, while Egypt mourned for her firstborn. But the destroying angel and his sacrificial knife, fearful and terrifying, passed over us, for we were protected by the precious blood. This day we have wholly departed from Egypt, and from Pharaoh, its cruel tyrant, and his oppressive overseers. We are freed from laboring with bricks and straw,<sup>2</sup> and no one forbids us celebrate the festival of our passing over, our pasch, and to celebrate not with the leaven of malice and wickedness but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ...

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<sup>5</sup> Oden, Thomas C., and Christopher A. Hall, eds. 1998. *Mark (Revised)*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.