

Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA

A red rectangular graphic with a white grid pattern. On the right side, there is a white geometric design consisting of concentric circles and lines forming a diamond shape. On the left side, there is white text. At the bottom right, there is a small white box with the text '2 CORINTHIANS 12:9' and a small logo for 'Faithlife'.

But he said to me,
"My grace is sufficient for you,
**for my power is made
perfect in weakness.**"
Therefore I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that
the power of Christ may
rest upon me.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Faithlife

Holy Week

March 29-April 5, 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: 2 Corinthians 12:9 ***"My grace is
sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect
in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the
more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may rest upon me."***

Read/Chant **Psalm 118:19-29**

CATECHISM—Holy Baptism—What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Sunday, March 29

- Read **Hebrews 1:1-14**
- *Secondary reading:* **Exodus 8:1-32**

THEODORET OF CYR: The divine apostle immediately in the prologue demonstrates that Christ is better than all the prophets. Beginning with the divine nature, he shows him to be eternal—coeternal with the Father and the Creator of all. Next, contrasting him with the angels, he turns to sacred Scripture, which openly teaches that Christ is Son and God, while angels are ministers and creatures. He proceeds to show that the dispensation of our Lord Christ is greater than that of Moses, for Moses gave the Old Testament but Christ gave the New, which was promised through the prophets of old. The former promised that Palestine would be given; the latter, the kingdom of heaven. He compares the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek with the Levitical priesthood and demonstrates its superiority and excellence. In addition, he shows that even those who lived before the law or under the law and were nourished by piety were distinguished because of their faith. He speaks of them and their sufferings

- 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend,
The Lamb of God, our Savior,
Whom God the Father chose to send
To gain for us His favor.
"Go forth, My Son," the Father said,
"And free My children from their dread
Of guilt and condemnation.
The wrath and stripes are hard to bear,
But by Your passion they will share
The fruit of Your salvation."
- 3 "Yes, Father, yes, most willingly
I'll bear what You command Me.
My will conforms to Your decree,
I'll do what You have asked Me."
O wondrous Love, what have You done!
The Father offers up His Son,
Desiring our salvation.
O Love, how strong You are to save!
You lay the One into the grave
Who built the earth's foundation.
- 4 Lord, when Your glory I shall see
And taste Your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before Your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As Your own bride shall we be brought
To stand in joy beside You.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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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.

438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

- 1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
"All this I gladly suffer."

and courage, encouraging his hearers, who were in grave danger. Then, reminding his hearers of their own struggles and exhorting them to stand steadfast to the end and weaving together moral exhortation with doctrine, he closes the epistle. INTERPRETATION OF HEBREWS 1.¹

Monday, March 30

- Read **Hebrews 2:1-18**
- *Secondary Reading: Exodus 9:1-28*

THEODORET OF CYR: How would it be possible to name him our brother or to call us sons and daughters properly if it were not for the nature—the same as ours—with which he was clothed?... And it was especially necessary for Paul to say “in the same way” so that he might refute the reproach of making the incarnation a fantasy. He makes all of these points in order to teach those who suppose that the Son was lower than the angels that he endured suffering for a necessary reason. He explains this more clearly in what follows. INTERPRETATION OF HEBREWS 2.14–15.²

¹ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Tuesday, March 31

- Read **Hebrews 3:1-19**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 9:29-10:20**

CHRYSOSTOM: From hardness comes unbelief. As in bodies the parts that have become callous and hard do not yield to the hands of the physicians, so also souls that are hardened yield not to the Word of God. For it is probable that some even disbelieved those things which had already been done; hence he says, "Take heed." ... Because the argument from the future is not so persuasive as from the past, he reminds them of the history in which they had lacked faith. For if your fathers, he says, because they did not hope as they ought to have hoped, suffered these things, much more will you. To them also is this word addressed, for "today," he says, is "ever," so long as the world lasts. Therefore, "exhort one another daily, as long as it is called 'today.'" That is, edify one another, raise yourselves up, lest the same things should befall you. "Lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Do you see that sin produces unbelief? For as unbelief brings forth an evil life, so also a soul, "when it is come into a depth of evils, becomes contemptuous" and, having become contemptuous, it endures not even to believe, in order thereby to free itself from fear. ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 6.3-4.³

³ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

behalf, so that life may be ours in every way, and so that the unmovable foundation of his priesthood may be established forever, no longer allotting it according to the flesh and successions, but granting that it might be preserved by the Holy Spirit, according to his decree. PANARION 4, AGAINST MELCHIZEDEKIANS 4.1-7.⁷

Sunday, April 5

- Read **Hebrews 7:23-8:13**
- *Second Reading:* **Exodus 14:10-31**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for Good Friday*

Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD'S PRAYER**

⁷ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” As for the order of Melchizedek, when the divine Scripture proclaimed and the Spirit clearly taught about it, they revealed the transposition of the priesthood from the ancient synagogue and the nation onto the finest and best nation, which is not united by descent from the [same] flesh. You see, this holy man, Melchizedek, had neither descendants after him nor was his priesthood removed. For he remained a priest all the days of his life and even still he is praised in Scripture as a priest, since no one either succeeded him or abolished the priesthood during the time of his service. So also our Lord, though he was not a human being—but the holy divine Word of God, Son of God, begotten without beginning nor in time, being always with the Father, who for us became a human being, of Mary and not by the seed of man—offers the priesthood to the Father, having taken the clay from his humanity, so that, on our behalf, he may be established a priest according to the order of Melchizedek, which has no succession. And he remains [as such], forever offering gifts on our behalf, having first offered himself through the cross, so that he may abolish every sacrifice of the old covenant, offering the most perfect and living sacrifice on behalf of the whole world: he is the sacrificial victim, he is the offering, he is the priest, he is the altar, he is God, he is human, he is King, he is High Priest, he is sheep, he is lamb, having become all in all on our

Wednesday, April 1

- Read **Hebrews 4:1-16**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 10:21-11:10**

EPHREM THE SYRIAN: We also had the promise to enter into the kingdom through our faith and spiritual way of life, as well as those who accepted the command through the law so that ... they might possess the land granted to them. “But the message” of the law “which they heard did not benefit them because it did not meet with faith” in the hearers. “We who have believed” in Christ and his gifts “enter” faithfully “that rest.” They, on the other hand, did not enter into that rest in consequence of the vow made through David, who said, “I swore in my anger that they should not enter my rest.” COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS 4.⁴

Thursday, April 2

- Read **Hebrews 5:1-14**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 12:1-28**

GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS: He whom presently you scorn was once transcendent over even you. He who is presently human was incomposite. He remained what he was; what he was not he assumed. No “because” is required for his existence in the beginning, for what could account for the existence of God? But later he came into being because of something, namely, your

⁴ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

salvation, yours who insult him and despise his Godhead for that very reason, because he took on your thick corporeality. Through the medium of the mind he had dealings with the flesh, being made that God on earth which is human. Human and God blended; they became a single whole, the stronger side predominating, in order that I might be made God to the same extent that he was made man. He was begotten—yet he was already begotten—of a woman.⁵³ ON THE SON, THEOLOGICAL ORATION 3(29).19.⁵

Friday, April 3

- Read **Hebrews 6:1-20**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 12:29-13:16**

EPHREM THE SYRIAN: “It is impossible to restore again to repentance” through a second baptism “those who have once been baptized, who have tasted the heavenly gift” through the medicine which they received, “have become partakers of the Holy Spirit” through the gifts received from the Spirit, “have tasted the goodness of the Word of God” in the new gospel and were armed with the power of the age to come in the promises prepared for the pious ones, but now “have fallen away” again. Those who propose two baptisms ask for the crucifixion again of the Son of God and for his dishonor. But crucifixion was performed once and

⁵ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

will not be performed once more, and baptism was conceded as an “absolver” and is not conceded a second time to the sinner.... After the apostle said these words and discouraged them from sinning and being in want of propitiation, he changed his tone and encouraged them, as if to say, “If there is no second baptism to purify you, your deeds and charity are to be an eternal baptism for you.” “Though,” he says, “we speak thus” and close the door of mercy before the just ones lest they may sin, nevertheless the door of mercy is open for penitents. “God is not so unjust as to overlook your work,” that is, your gift, “and the love” which you have for the saints and the poor who are in Jerusalem. COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.⁶

Saturday, April 4

- Read **Hebrews 7:1-22**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Exodus 13:17-4:9**

EPIPHANIUS OF SALAMIS: But I return to the matter at hand, namely, the things these people imagine about Melchizedek. On the one hand, it is clear that he was a holy man, a priest of God, and the king of Salem, and on the other, that he was not of the heavenly order, nor did he descend from heaven; for, as the holy God, the Word, who does not lie, says: “No one has ascended into heaven

⁶ Heen, Erik M., and Philip D. W. Krey, eds. 2005. [Hebrews](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.