

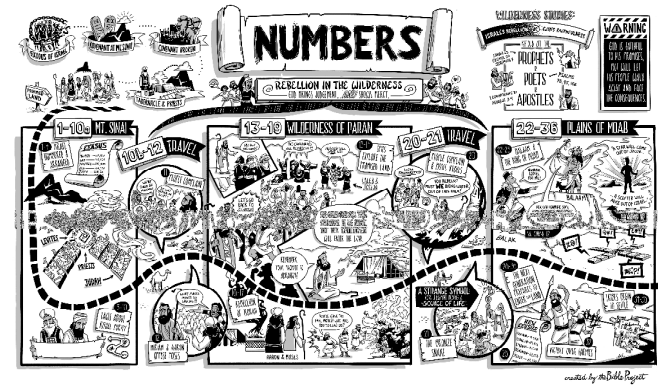
Prayer  
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer  
The Whole Story

2025

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



**Week #13-The Whole Story**

**Third Week of Lent**

March 23-March 30, 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 Fifth Commandment**  
***You shall not murder.***

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

VERSE: Isaiah 53:5 ***“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”***

**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, March 23**

- Read **Psalm 82** (God has taken his place in the divine council.)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 13-15***

**EUSEBIUS:** And the same [Moses] by divine inspiration foresaw the name Jesus very clearly and again also endowed this with special privilege. The name of Jesus, which had never been uttered among men before it was made known to Moses, Moses applied first to this one alone. He knew that Joshua, again as a type and a symbol, would receive the rule over all after Moses' death. His successor, at any rate, had never before used the

**606 I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS**

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus  
To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious  
Till not a spot remains.
- 2 I lay my wants on Jesus;  
All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases;  
He all my sorrows shares.
- 3 I rest my soul on Jesus,  
This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline.  
I love the name of Jesus,  
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes  
His name abroad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

Text: Public domain

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.

title Jesus. He had been called by another name, Auses, which his parents had bestowed upon him. Moses himself proclaims Jesus, as a privilege of honor far greater than a royal crown, giving him the name because Jesus, the son of Nave,<sup>2</sup> himself bore a resemblance to our Savior, who alone, after Moses and the completion of the symbolic worship transmitted by him, received the rule of true and pure religion. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY 1.3.<sup>1</sup>

### **Monday, March 24**

- Read **Psalm 83** (O God, do not keep silence)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 16-18***

**CYPRIAN:** The argument that they acknowledge the same God the Father, the same son Christ and the same Holy Spirit is no use to them either. Korah, Dathan and Abiram acknowledged the same God as Aaron the priest and Moses. They lived by the same law and the same religious practices, invoking the one true God who should properly be worshiped and invoked. All the same, when they went beyond the limits of their own ministry and claimed for themselves authority to perform sacrifices in opposition to Aaron the priest, who had received the lawful priesthood by the favor of

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<sup>1</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

God and the ordination of the Lord, they were struck from on high and at once paid the penalty for their unlawful attempt. The sacrifices which they offered impiously and unlawfully against God's will and ordinance could be neither valid nor efficacious. LETTER 69.8.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, March 25**

- Read **Psalm 84** (How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 19-21***

**BEDE:** Now [Moses] declares that the ashes of the victims (which ought to be taken as a great mystery) are "the sprinkled ashes of a red heifer," which (as the apostle also bears witness) sanctified "those who have been defiled, so that [their] flesh is made clean." He also understands that the sacrament of the Lord's passion, which saves us by purifying us forever, is prefigured in these ashes. Thus the burning of a red heifer designates the actual time and event of Christ's passion, and the burnt ashes which were kept for the cleansing of those who were unclean suggest the mystery of that same passion which has already been

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<sup>2</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

united to the man. So now, when you hear from the angel, "Blessed are you among women," take it in such a way, as if it were saying, in our usage, Blessed are you among females. SERMON 291.4.<sup>7</sup>

### **Sunday, March 16**

- Read **Psalm 89** (I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 34-36***

### **End Every Day**

#### **Pray the *Collect for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent***

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

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<sup>7</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

temple too all went on each sabbath with even more diligence and double toil. Thus even by shadows he was secretly opening them to the truth. HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 39.3.<sup>6</sup>

### **Saturday, March 15**

- Read **Psalm 88** (O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 31-33***

**AUGUSTINE:** The same angel, however, said to the Virgin Mary, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you”; the one who will be in you is already with you. “Blessed are you among women.”<sup>2</sup> Holy Scripture bears witness to the fact that in the proper usage of the Hebrew language all females are habitually called women; in case some of you perhaps may be astonished and scandalized, if you are not used to hearing the Scriptures. There’s a place in the Scriptures where the Lord says openly, “Set apart the women who have not known man.” In any case, call to mind those origins of ours; when Eve was made from the man’s side, what does Scripture say? “He removed a rib from him and built it into a woman.”<sup>4</sup> She is already called a woman, taken indeed from the man but not yet

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<sup>6</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

completed, by which we are daily purged from our sins. ON THE TABERNACLE 2.11.<sup>3</sup>

### **Wednesday, March 26**

- Read **Psalm 85** (LORD, you were favorable to your land)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 22-24***

**MARTIN LUTHER:** This is also the significance of the words which Christ now quotes from the prophet Isaiah: “And they shall all be taught by God” (Is. 54:13). He declares, as it were, that whoever would be a member of Christendom and be called a member or disciple of Christ must simply hear God Himself. And how do I hear Him? How am I instructed by Him? A schismatic spirit withdraws into some nook, gapes, neither reads nor listens, but waits for God to speak with him. He waits for the Spirit to appear, and he says: “Oh, this is what it means to be taught by God!” Yes, the devil is standing on your head! No, to be taught by God Himself means to heed the Word of Christ, to learn from Him, and then to feel convinced that it is God’s Word. This is hearing God Himself. And even though You were to hear an ass speaking, as Balaam did (Num. 22:28), it would nonetheless be God’s Word. Thus when you hear a sermon by St.

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<sup>3</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy\*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Paul or by me, you hear God the Father Himself. And yet you do not become my pupil but the Father's, for it is not I who is speaking; it is the Father. Nor am I your schoolmaster; but we both, you and I, have one Schoolmaster and Teacher, the Father, who instructs us. We both, pastor and listener, are only pupils; there is only this difference, that God is speaking to you through me. That is the glorious power of the divine Word, through which God Himself deals with us and speaks to us, and in which we hear God Himself.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Thursday, March 27**

- Read **Psalm 86** (Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 25-27***

**AMBROSE:** God is neither unjust nor is his judgment changeable. For God laid hold of [Balaam's] mind and the secrets of his heart. For that reason he tested him as a diviner; he did not elect him as a prophet. And certainly he ought to have been converted by the grace of such great oracles and the sublimity of the revelations. But his soul, full of vileness, put forth words, but it did not bring forth faith. He desired to undermine by his counsel what

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<sup>4</sup> Luther, Martin. 1999. [\*Luther's Works, Vol. 23: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 6-8.\*](#) Edited by Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann. Vol. 23. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.

he announced would happen. Since he was not able to give the lie to the oracles, he proposed fraudulent counsels. By these counsels the fickle people of Israel were indeed tested, but they were not overcome. For by the justice of one man, a priest, every plan of that villainous man was undone. It is much more amazing that the multitude of our fathers could be freed through one man than be deceived through one man. LETTER 28 (50).15.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Friday, March 28**

- Read **Psalm 87** (On the holy mount stands the city he founded.)
- Read ***The Torah: Numbers 28-30***

**CHRYSOSTOM:** Because they could not have borne it if when giving the law for the sabbath God had said, "Do your good works on the sabbath, but do not the works that are evil," therefore he restrained them from all alike. "You must do nothing at all," he says, and even so they were not kept in line. But in the very act of giving the law of the sabbath he signified, though in shaded language, that he restricts them from evil works only, for he says, "You must do no work, except what shall be done for your life."<sup>3</sup> And in the

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<sup>5</sup> Lienhard, Joseph T., and Ronnie J. Rombs, eds. 2001. [\*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.\*](#) Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.