

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Week of Pentecost*

*May 28, 2023, through June 4, 2023*

**Patristic Quote for the Week** —**CHRYSOSTOM** (344-407AD): What is meant by “with the eleven”? They expressed themselves through a common voice, and he spoke for everyone. The eleven stood by as witnesses to what he said. “He raised his voice,” that is, he spoke with great confidence, that they might perceive the grace of the Spirit. He, who could not endure the questioning of a poor girl, now discourses with such great confidence in the middle of people all breathing murder upon him. This in itself became an indisputable proof of the resurrection. He spoke [among] people who could deride and make a joke of such sort of things!... For wherever the Holy Spirit is present, people of clay are changed into people of gold. Look at Peter now, if you would, and scrutinize the timid one, the man without understanding (as Christ said, “Are you also still without understanding?”). This is the man who was called Satan after that marvelous confession.<sup>3</sup> Consider also the unanimity of the apostles. Of their own accord they yielded to him the office of speaking, for there was no need for them all to speak. So “he raised his voice and addressed them” with every confidence. HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4.<sup>1</sup>

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## **Invocation**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**Verse: Acts 2:17**

**“And in the last day it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”**

**Psalm 75 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	103	5	42	89:1-18	97	51	104	103
Evening	117	84	102	1	16	142	118	139

## **Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar**

*What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?*

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given in these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament.

Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: **forgiveness of sins.**

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<sup>1</sup> Francis Martin and Evan Smith, eds., [Acts](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 27–28.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., May 21	<b>First Reading, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter—Acts 1:12-26</b>	Numbers 14:1-25
Mon., May 22	John the Baptist Exalts Christ—John 3:22-4:45	Numbers 14:26-45
Tues., May 23	Jesus Heals an Official's Son—John 4:46-5:17	Numbers 16:1-22
Wed., May 24	Jesus is Equal with God—John 5:18-29	Numbers 16:23-40
Thurs., May 25	Witnesses to Jesus—John 5:30-6:15	Numbers 16:41-17:13
Fri., May 26	Jesus Walks on Water—John 6:16-59	Numbers 20:1-21
Sat., May 27	Old Testament Reading, Pentecost Saturday—Genesis 11:1-9	Numbers 20:22-21:9
Sun., May 28	Old Testament Reading, Pentecost Sunday—Numbers 11:24-30	Numbers 21:10-35

**Pray the Collect for the Feast of Pentecost:**

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

**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.

**Hymn of the Week**

**"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"**

**497**

**Looking forward to Trinity Sunday**

**June 4, 2023**

**Hymns: 816, 506, 507, 876, 937**

**Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

**Acts 2:14a, 22-36**

**Matthew 28:16-20**