

Prayer
Requests

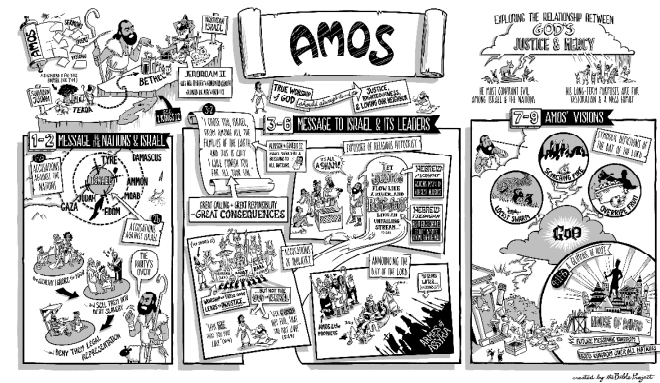


The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #48-The Whole Story
The Last Week of the Church Year
November 23-November 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**

VERSE: John 14:6 ***"Jesus said to him, 'I am the
way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through me.'"***

CATECHISM—Apostles' Creed—First Article

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that he has given my my body and soul, eyes, and ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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, November 23

- Read **Amos 1-5**

APRINGIUS OF BEJA: (Revelation 19:9) Who are those who have been invited to the feast of the Lamb, unless those to whom it is said: "I will not drink from this fruit of the vine until I will drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father who is in

672 Jerusalem the Golden

- 1 Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest—
The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest—
We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory,
The bliss beyond compare!
- 2 Within those walls of Zion
Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessèd
Shines bright with glorious sheen.
- 3 Around the throne of David,
The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever
Their gleaming robes of white.
- D 4 O sweet and blessèd country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessèd country
That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

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.

heaven.” And again, “Many will come from east and west and will recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”¹⁴ This is to drink the new cup, to prepare the new bodies of those being raised, to keep a new joy, and to repay the sincere righteousness of a true faith. These are the blessed who are prepared for this feast and for this repast. TRACTATE ON THE APOCALYPSE 19:9–10.¹

Monday, November 24

- Read **Amos 6-9**

OECUMENIUS: (Revelation 22:17a) “And the Spirit,” that is, the prophetic Spirit, “and the bride,” the church that is universal and in every place, say, “Come!” We are instructed to seek the second coming of the Lord, and indeed to pray for it. For to be sure, whoever prays “thy kingdom come” to God seeks the kingdom of Christ, which is also the kingdom of the Father and of the Spirit. “And let him who hears say, ‘Come,’ ” it says. Everyone who hears these words, even you, John, ought to pray for the kingdom of the coming of Christ. He says this to exhort everyone to the works and practices of righteousness. For no one who is not fully aware of righteousness in himself would pray for the coming of Christ, at which he will demand an

¹ Weinrich, William C., ed. 2005. [Revelation](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

accounting of the life of all. COMMENTARY ON THE APOCALYPSE 22:15–19.²

Tuesday, November 25

- Read **Obadiah & Jonah**

THEODORET OF CYR: (Hosea 1:1-3) Likewise the Lord of all had bade Hosea also, therefore, marry a loose woman so as by the event to charge the people with impiety and give evidence of his characteristic longsuffering. If the God of all put up with the loose and adulterous synagogue, however, and the fount of holiness was not defiled by that loathsome and abominable thing, neither did the prophet incur any defilement from that licentious woman. Without being in thrall to lust, and instead carrying out a command from on high, he put up with that awful relationship. Now one must realize how judgment is made between good and bad by the purpose involved: on that basis marriage is distinguished from adultery, and though intercourse involves no difference, the difference emerges in the purpose and the law, and on the same basis what is lawful is distinguished from what is lawless. COMMENTARY ON HOSEA 1.2.³

² Weinrich, William C., ed. 2005. [Revelation](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP.

³ Ferreiro, Alberto. 2003. [“Introduction to the Twelve Prophets.”](#) In *The Twelve Prophets*, edited by Alberto Ferreiro, 4. Ancient Christian

consider it and say, “And while we scarcely hear a little drop of his words, who shall be able to look on the thundering of his majesty?”⁴ MORALS ON THE BOOK OF JOB 3.17.54.⁷

Sunday, November 30

- Read **Zephaniah**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 22nd Sunday after Trinity*

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through 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 Ferreiro, Alberto. 2003. [“Introduction to the Twelve Prophets.”](#) In *The Twelve Prophets*, edited by Alberto Ferreiro, 64. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

be troubled, for the Day of the Lord comes; for it is nigh at hand, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of cloud and whirlwind." For the Day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who shall sustain it? But how incomprehensible and unimaginable that greatness with which he shall come in his second coming! In some degree we estimate correctly if we consider with heedful reflection the momentous circumstances of his first advent. Surely the Lord came to die, and the impoverishment and punishments of our flesh he underwent in his own body that he might redeem us from death. Before he came to the stock of the cross he suffered to be bound, to be spit on, to be mocked and to be beaten with blows on his cheek. Observe to what disgraceful treatment he consented to come for our sakes, and yet, before he permitted himself to be laid hold of, he questioned his persecutors, saying, "Whom do you seek?" To that they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." And when he said to them directly, "I am he," he only uttered a voice of the mildest answer, and at once prostrated his armed persecutors to the earth. What then shall he do when he comes to judge the world, if by one utterance of his voice he struck down his enemies even when he came to be judged? What is that judgment which he exercises as immortal, that a single utterance of it could not be endured when he was about to die? Who may sustain his wrath when his very mildness even could not be sustained? So then, let the holy man

Wednesday, November 26

- **Read Micah 1-3**

ORIGEN: (Hosea 6:2) Hear what the prophet says: "God will revive us after two days, and on the third day we shall arise and live in his sight." The first day is the passion of the Savior for us. The second is the day on which he descended into hell. The third day is the day of resurrection. Therefore on the third day "God went before them, by day in a column of cloud, by night in a column of fire."⁹ But if according to what we said above, the apostle teaches us rightly that the mysteries of baptism are contained in these words, it is necessary that "those who are baptized in Christ are baptized in his death and are buried with him." [They must] also arise from the dead with him on the third day, according to what the apostle says, "He raised up together with him and at the same time made them sit in the heavenly places."¹² When, therefore, you shall have undertaken the mystery of the third day, God will begin to lead you and will himself show you the way of salvation. HOMILIES ON EXODUS 5.⁴

Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁴ Ferreiro, Alberto. 2003. "[Introduction to the Twelve Prophets.](#)" In *The Twelve Prophets*, edited by Alberto Ferreiro, 27–28. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Thursday, November 27

- Read **Micah 4-7**

TERTULLIAN: (Hosea 10:5-6) The Lord himself comes to a trial with “the elders and rulers of the people,” as Isaiah predicted. And then he fulfilled all that had been written of his passion. At that time “the heathen raged, and the people imagined vain things; the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers gathered themselves together against the Lord and against his Christ.”⁵ The heathen were Pilate and the Romans; the people were the tribes of Israel; the kings were represented in Herod and the rulers in the chief priests. When, indeed, he was sent to Herod gratuitously by Pilate, the words of Hosea were accomplished, for he had prophesied of Christ, “And they shall carry him bound as a present to the king.” AGAINST MARCION 4.42.⁵

Friday, November 28

- Read **Nahum**

THEODORE OF MOPSUESTIA: (Hosea 14:9) You could really demonstrate that a wise and understanding person is the one with knowledge of what has been said and with zeal for the things by which it is

⁵ Ferreiro, Alberto. 2003. [“Introduction to the Twelve Prophets.”](#) In *The Twelve Prophets*, edited by Alberto Ferreiro, 41. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

possible for people who avoid evil and zealously practice good to be established in freedom from lower things and in enjoyment of higher things. This is because everything done by God is marked by great correctness, with which he also applies punishment to the fallen and knows how to achieve their salvation when they repent. You could also demonstrate that the righteous are those of their number who also know how to profit from each category and who develop greater self-control from the punishments, on the one hand, while taking the enjoyment of the good things stemming from repentance as a stimulus to virtue, on the other. You could also demonstrate that the impious are those who deserve troubles in every way and of every kind, gaining nothing from them, stuck fast in a downward direction, and as a result not able to understand anything of their duty. COMMENTARY ON HOSEA 14.10.⁶

Saturday, November 29

- Read **Habakkuk**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (Joel 2:1) The terror of the strict inquest, which Zephaniah calls “the trumpet,” blessed Job designates “thundering.”² Joel, also viewing it, says, “Let all the inhabitants of the land

⁶ Ferreiro, Alberto. 2003. [“Introduction to the Twelve Prophets.”](#) In *The Twelve Prophets*, edited by Alberto Ferreiro, 56. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.