

The Congregation at Prayer  
The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #45-The Whole Story

Week of All Saints

November 2-November 9, 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: Lamentations 3:22-23 ***"The steadfast  
love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies  
never come to an end; they are new every  
morning; great is your faithfulness."***

**CATECHISM—Ten Commandments: Ninth Commandment**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

**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 2**

- Read **Nehemiah 7-9**

BEDE: (Nehemiah 9:1-2) One should note the devotion of the people reformed after the captivity: when the feast that had been commanded by the Lord's law had been duly completed, after just one day's intermission, they immediately came together of their own accord with fasting and with repentance, and they diligently carried out what on the days of sacred readings and rejoicing they had heard must be done by separating themselves in mind and body from the fellowship of those who were proven to be alienated from the Lord and his worship, lest through the association and examples of the



7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of Glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

D 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's  
farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the  
countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.  
Text: Public domain*

wicked they should again fall into the evils of captivity and hardship that, they discerned, they had just at that time barely escaped after long revolutions of times and ages. And what are we to reflect on mystically about these matters except that, following the examples of such people, whatever we have learned in a public meeting or reading should be done, we should reflect on again with mutual discussion among ourselves, and we should search out with careful scrutiny the ways we can fulfill each duty with the reproof of our heart and body. ON EZRA AND NEHEMIAH 3.28.<sup>1</sup>

### **Monday, November 3**

- Read **Nehemiah 10-13**

BEDE: (Nehemiah 13:23-30) It is in all respects an apt and appropriate end to the work of building the holy city and the temple of the Lord that when the citizens have been purified by God from all the filth of foreign pollution, which is alien to God, the orders of the priests and the Levites should be duly preserved in their own ministry in order that the teachers of the church who have been instructed according to rule may continually exhort the people now cleansed from all sin to remain henceforth in goodness and to grow. Among other things, the people offer wood to the Lord to feed

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<sup>1</sup> Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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

the fire of the altar when they perform works of virtues that are assuredly worthy of divine consecration. For if wood did not sometimes symbolize something good, the prophet would not say, “Then shall all the wood of the forests rejoice in the presence of the Lord.” Now the wood burns and is consumed in the altar of the burnt offering when in the hearts of the elect works of righteousness are perfected in the flame of love. ON EZRA AND NEHEMIAH 3.37.<sup>2</sup>

### **Tuesday, November 4**

- Read **Esther 1-3**

RABANUS MAURUS: (Esther 1:3-8) Even though from the historical point of view it simply appears to show the abundance of riches and the luxury of delights of a powerful king, ... according to the holier mystery of our most powerful king, namely, Our Lord Christ, this preparation of a most magnificent banquet signifies the greatness of the spiritual riches and the excellence of the living treasures that he distributes according to the measure of his dispensation to each of his faithful.

EXPLANATION ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER 1.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

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<sup>3</sup> Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#).

### **677 For All the Saints**

- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world  
confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their  
might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought  
fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true  
light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
And win with them the victor's crown of  
gold!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are  
strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 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.

## Wednesday, November 5

- Read **Esther 4-6**

CLEMENT OF ROME: (Esther 4:5-17) Many women, fortified by the grace of God, have accomplished many heroic actions. The blessed Judith, when the city was besieged, asked permission of the elders to be allowed to go into the foreigners' camp. By exposing herself to danger she went out for love of her country and of the people who were besieged, and the Lord delivered Holophernes into the hand of a woman. To no less danger did Esther, who was perfect in faith, expose herself, in order to save the twelve tribes of Israel that were to be destroyed. For by fasting and humiliation she begged the all-seeing Master of the ages, and he, seeing the meekness of her soul, rescued the people for whose sake she had faced danger. 1 CLEMENT 55.3–6.<sup>4</sup>

## Thursday, November 6

- Read **Esther 7-10**

ATHANASIUS: (Esther 9:15-23) In the face of all this, brothers and sisters, what should we do but give thanks to God, the king of all? Let us start by crying

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out the words of the psalm, “Blessed is the Lord, who has not let them eat us up.” Let us keep the feast in that way that he has established for our salvation—the holy day of Easter—so that we, along with the angels, may celebrate the heavenly feast. Remember that Israel, coming out of affliction to a state of rest, sang a song of praise for the victory as they kept the feast. And in the time of Esther the people kept a feast to the Lord because they had been delivered from a deadly decree. They called a feast, thanking and praising the Lord because he had changed the situation for them. Therefore, let us keep our promises to the Lord, confess our sins, and keep the feast to him—in behavior, moral conduct, and way of life. Let us keep it by praising the Lord, who has disciplined us so lightly but has never failed us nor forsaken us nor stopped speaking to us. FESTAL LETTERS 8.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Friday, November 7**

- Read **1 John 1-3**

TERTULLIAN: (1 John 3:16) John tells us that we must be ready to lay down our lives for our friends. If that is true, how much more should we be ready to

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<sup>5</sup> Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

lay them down for Christ? ON FLIGHT IN TIME OF PERSECUTION 9.3.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Saturday, November 8**

- Read **1 John 4-5**

BEDE: (1 John 4:8) Let no one say that when he sins he sins against other people but not against God, for how can you not be sinning against God when you are sinning against love? ON 1 JOHN.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Sunday, November 2**

- Read **2 John, 3 John, & Jude**

#### **End Every Day**

#### ***Pray the Collect for All Saints Day***

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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<sup>6</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>7</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.