

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Scripture Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 11, 2026 to Sunday, October 18, 2026

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions —“Last, since the tyranny of the pope has been abolished, people are no longer willing to go to the Sacrament, and thus they despise it. Here again encouragement is necessary, yet with this understanding: We are to force no one to believe or to receive the Sacrament. Nor should we set up any law, time, or place for it. Instead, preach in such a way that by their own will, without our law, they will urge themselves and, as it were, compel us pastors to administer the Sacrament. This is done by telling them, “When someone does not seek or desire the Sacrament at least four times a year, it is to be feared that he despises the Sacrament and is not a Christian, just as a person is not a Christian who does not believe or hear the Gospel.” For Christ did not say, “Leave this out, or despise this,” but “Do this, as often as you drink it” and other such words. Truly, He wants it done, and not entirely neglected and despised. “Do this,” He says.” *The Preface of Dr. Martin Luther, Small Catechism*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

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.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Matthew 21:9

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Read/Chant Psalm 23

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun, Oct. 11	Epistle Lesson, 20th Sunday after Pentecost—Colossians 1:15-23	Matthew 11:20-30
Mon, Oct. 12	Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan—Numbers 14:1-24	Matthew 12:1-21
Tues, Oct. 13	The Rebels are Sentenced to Death—Numbers 14:25-45	Matthew 12:22-37
Wed, Oct. 14	Rebellion Against Moses & Aaron—Numbers 16:1-19	Matthew 12:38-50
Thu, Oct. 15	The Lord Confirms that Moses is His Prophet—Number 16:19-40	Matthew 13:1-23
Fri, Oct. 16	Old Testament Lesson, 21 st Sunday after Pentecost—Judges 6:11-24	Matthew 13:24-43
Sat, Oct. 17	Epistle Lesson, 21 st Sunday after Pentecost—Philippians 4:21-23	Matthew 13:44-58
Sun, Oct. 18	Gospel Lesson, 21 st Sunday after Pentecost—Luke 1:26-38	Matthew 14:1-21

Collect for the Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

- 1 We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”
- 2 The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
“O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!”
- 3 You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ryone:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve—
You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.
- 4 You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God’s right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

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