

- 3 Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen
Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
Safe may Your Church be found.
- 4 Preserve Your Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory,
The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water,
This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Your face.
- 5 Preserve in wave and tempest
Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather,
May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot,
And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor
In Your eternal light.

Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616-64; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891-1976, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895



The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #42-The Whole Story
17th Week after Trinity
October 12-October 19, 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 16:33 *"I have said these things to
you, that in me you may have peace. In the
world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I
have overcome the world.."*

CATECHISM—*Ten Commandments: Sixth Commandment*

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

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, October 12

- Read **Ezekiel 10-12**

AUGUSTINE: (Ezekiel 11:18-20) If God is not able to remove from the human heart even its obstinacy and hardness, he would not say, through the prophet, “I will take from them their heart of stone and will give them a heart of flesh.” ... Now can we possibly, without extreme absurdity, maintain that there previously existed in any person the good merit of a good will, to entitle him to the removal of his stony heart, when all the while this very heart of stone signifies nothing else than a will of the hardest kind and such as is absolutely inflexible against God? ON GRACE AND FREE WILL 29.¹

¹ Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. [*Ezekiel, Daniel*](#). Ancient Christian

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.

658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

- 1 Preserve Your Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish;
Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below.
- 2 Preserve, O Lord, Your honor,
The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten
The souls in error's night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior,
To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living,
That all Your name may know.

when they “crucified the Lord of glory.” Therefore the apostle says, “We speak a wisdom among the perfect; yet a wisdom not of this world or of the rulers of this world, which are coming to naught ... a wisdom that none of the rulers of this world knew. For had they known it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory.” ON FIRST PRINCIPLES 3.3.2.⁵

Sunday, October 19

- Read **Ezekiel 31-33**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 17th Sunday after Trinity*

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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**

⁵ Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. *Ezekiel, Daniel*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Monday, October 13

- Read **Ezekiel 13-15**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (Ezekiel 13:19) Anyone who condemns a righteous person is putting to death one who is not dying; and one who tries to absolve a guilty person from his punishment is striving to bring back to life one who is not living. All cases must be carefully considered, and only then the power of binding and loosing used. The pastor must look at the sin and the repentance following after the sin, so that his sentence absolves those to whom almighty God grants the grace of sorrow. There is true absolution on the part of the one presiding only when it is in accord with the decision of the internal judge. FORTY GOSPEL HOMILIES 26.²

Tuesday, October 14

- Read **Ezekiel 16-18**

JEROME: (Ezekiel 16:6) When she is ready for marriage and her body is becoming beautiful, she did not have clothes to cover her, and she was not protected by the help of God. If people do not have clothing that Christ gives, they are naked; if people are not clothed inwardly with mercy, goodness, humility, chastity, gentleness and patience, they

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

² Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. *Ezekiel, Daniel*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

are cast on the earth, and their beauty is defiled in disorder and nudity. COMMENTARY ON EZEKIEL 4.16.6–7.³

Wednesday, October 15

- Read **Ezekiel 19-21**

AUGUSTINE: (Ezekiel 20:25) But, why should I not say that the requirements of ancient ceremonies are not good because people are not justified by them; they are figures that foreshadow the grace, by which we are justified.... They are not bad, because they were precepts of divine origin, adapted to times and people, although in this estimate I am supported by the prophetic statement in which God said that he had given to that people “statutes that were not good.” It happens that he did not say that they were bad but only that they were not good: that is, such that with them, people become good; without them, they do not. I would like your kind sincerity to inform me whether any oriental saint who comes to Rome and fasts on Saturday—except the eve of Easter—is acting deceitfully. If we say that is wrong, we shall condemn the Roman church and also many places near it and others

³ Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. *Ezekiel, Daniel*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

somewhat further away, where the same custom continues to be observed. LETTER 82.⁴

Thursday, October 16

- Read **Ezekiel 22-24**

Friday, October 17

- Read **Ezekiel 25-27**

Saturday, October 18

- Read **Ezekiel 28-30**

ORIGEN: (Ezekiel 28:2) In the prophet Ezekiel the “prince of Tyre” is most plainly pictured as a certain spiritual power. When these, therefore, and other similar princes of this world, each having his own individual wisdom and formulating his own doctrines and peculiar opinions, saw our Lord and Savior promising and proclaiming that he had come into the world for the purpose of destroying all the doctrines (whatever they might be) of the “knowledge falsely so called,” they immediately laid snares for him, not knowing who was concealed within him. For “the kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against his Christ.”⁶ But their snares became known, and the plots that they had contrived against the Son of God were understood

⁴ Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. *Ezekiel, Daniel*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.