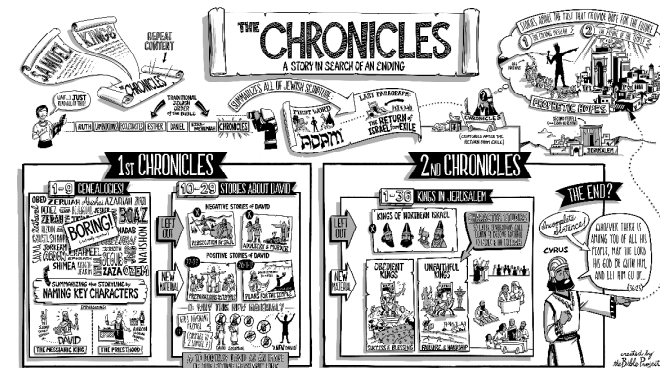


The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #41-The Whole Story

16th Week after Trinity

October 5-October 12, 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: 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ***“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.”***

CATECHISM—Ten Commandments: Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

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 5

- **Read 2 Chronicles 25-27**

AUGUSTINE: (2 Chronicles 25:7-20) Is not sin also punishment for sin where Amaziah, king of Judah, did not wish to hear the good advice of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, not to go to war? We read, “Amaziah would not listen to him because it was the Lord’s will that he should be delivered into their hands, because they sought the god of Edom.” We can recount many other events clearly showing that

Prayer Requests



from a hidden judgment of God comes perversity of heart, with the result that refusal to hear the truth leads to commission of sin, and this sin is also punishment for preceding sin. For to believe a lie and not believe the truth is indeed sin, but it comes from the blindness of heart that by a hidden but just judgment of God is also punishment for sin.

AGAINST JULIAN 5.3.12.¹

Monday, October 6

- Read **2 Chronicles 28-30**

Tuesday, October 7

- Read **2 Chronicles 31-33**

JOHN CASSIAN: (2 Chronicles 32:24-26) “In those days,” we are told, “Hezekiah was sick unto death, and he prayed to the Lord, and the Lord heard him and gave him a sign,” that, namely of which we read in the fourth book of the kingdoms, which was given by Isaiah the prophet through the going back of the sun. “But,” it says, “he did not respond to the benefits which he had received, for his heart was proud. And wrath was kindled against him and against Judah and Jerusalem. He humbled himself afterwards because his heart had been proud, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and therefore the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them in

¹ 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 days of Hezekiah.” How dangerous, how terrible is the malady of vanity! So much goodness, so many virtues, faith and devotion, great enough to prevail to change nature itself and the laws of the whole world—all destroyed by a single act of pride! The result would have been that all his good deeds would have been forgotten as if they had never existed, and he would at once have been subject to the wrath of the Lord unless he had appeased him by recovering his humility. Thus, he who, at the suggestion of pride, had fallen from so great a height of excellence, could only mount again to the height he had lost by the same steps of humility. INSTITUTES 11.10.²

Wednesday, October 8

- Read **2 Chronicles 34-36**

JEROME: (2 Chronicles 34:22-23) It is written in the book of Days: “Hezekiah fell because his heart was lifted up.” Certainly, no one but the ungodly will deny that Hezekiah was a just man. You may say, “He sinned in certain things, and, therefore, he ceased to be just.” But Scripture does not say this. For he did not lose the title of just because he committed small sins, but he possessed the title of just because he performed many good deeds. Say all this to prove, with the testimonies of sacred

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

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659 Lord of Our Life

- 1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of ev’ry nation:
Hear and receive Your Church’s supplication,
Lord God Almighty.
- 2 See round Your ark the hungry billows
curling;
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling
And with great spite their fiery darts are
hurling,
O Lord, preserve us.
- 3 Lord, be our light when worldly darkness
veils us;
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails
us;
And in the day when hell itself assails us,
Grant us Your peace, Lord:
- 4 Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are
raging,
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls
assuaging,
Peace when the world its endless war is
waging,
Peace in Your heaven.

*Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.
Text: Public domain*

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.

Scripture, that the just are not sinners simply because they have sinned on occasions, but they remain just because they flourish in many virtues. Of Josiah it is written, "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of David his father. He declined neither to the right nor to the left"; and yet, although he was a just man, in a time of need and dire necessity, he sent Hilkiah to Huldah, the prophet, the wife of Shallum, the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. "And she dwelled," he says, "in Jerusalem in the second part" (a reference, undoubtedly, to that part of the city that is enclosed by an inner wall). "And she answered, 'Thus says the Lord the God of Israel: Go and tell the man that sent you to me.' " There is contained in these words a secret reproof of the king and priests and all men, because never was there any saint found among people who could predict the future. AGAINST THE PELAGIANS 2.22.³

Thursday, October 9

- Read **Ezekiel 1-3**

JEROME: (Ezekiel 3:3) The eating of the book is the initial reading and the simple narrative. But when we have done some hard meditating on it and when we have laid it in the treasure store of the

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

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memory, our belly is spiritually filled and our inward parts are satiated, so that like the apostle Paul they are filled with compassion. COMMENTARY ON EZEKIEL 1.3.3.⁴

Friday, October 10

- Read **Ezekiel 4-6**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (Ezekiel 4:1-2) A teacher ought to come to know which temptations beset the progressing soul in order that he may be able to prepare it to be on its guard against the traps of the evil spirit. HOMILIES ON EZEKIEL 1.12.25.⁵

Saturday, October 11

- Read **Ezekiel 7-9**

CHRYSOSTOM: I have heard many, after such experience, blame themselves and say, “What advantage is it that I have grieved? I have not recovered my money, and I have injured myself.” But if you have grieved on account of sin, you have blotted it out and reaped the greatest pleasure. If you have grieved for your brothers who have fallen, you have both encouraged and comforted

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

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

yourself and have also restored them; and even if you were not to profit them, you have an abundant recompense. And that you may learn that grieving for those who have fallen, though we should not at all benefit them, still brings us a large reward, hear what Ezekiel says, or rather, what God speaks through him. For when he had sent certain messengers to overturn the city and to consume all the dwellings with sword and fire, along with their inhabitants, God charges one of them, “Set a mark on the forehead of those that groan and are in anguish.” And after charging the others and saying, “Begin from my holy ones,” he goes on to add, “but do not touch whoever has the sign on him.” HOMILIES CONCERNING THE STATUES 18.9.⁶

Sunday, October 12

- Read **Ezekiel 10-12**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for 16th Sunday after Trinity*

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⁶ Stevenson, Kenneth, and Michael Gluerup, eds. 2008. [*Ezekiel, Daniel*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.