

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Scripture Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026 to Sunday, September 20, 2026

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions — “Although we cannot and should not force anyone to believe, we should insist and encourage the people. That way they will know what is right and wrong for those among whom they dwell and wish to make their living. For whoever wishes to live in a town must know and observe the town laws, because he wishes to enjoy the protection offered by the laws whether he is a believer or at heart and in private a rascal or rogue.” *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: Ephesians 1:13-14a

“In him you also, when you hear the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.”

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Read/Chant Psalm 103

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun, Sept. 6	Gospel Lesson, 16th Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 28:16-20	Colossians 1:1-23
Mon, Sept. 7	Epistle Lesson, Holy Cross Day—1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Colossians 1:24-2:7
Tues, Sept. 8	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:14-6:7	Colossians 2:8-23
Wed, Sept. 9	The Ministry of Priests Begin—Leviticus 9:1-24	Colossians 3:1-25
Thu, Sept. 10	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	Colossians 4:1-18
Fri, Sept. 11	The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-34	1 Timothy 1:1-20
Sat, Sept. 12	Epistle Lesson, 17th Sunday after Pentecost—1 John 1:5-2:2	1 Timothy 2:1-15
Sun, Sept. 13	Gospel Lesson, 17th Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 18:21-35	1 Timothy 3:1-16

Collect for the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

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, 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.

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.

Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!

- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957
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