

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Scripture Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026 to Sunday, September 27, 2026

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions — “In the second place, after they have learned the text well teach them the meaning also, so that they know what it means. Again, choose the form of these tables or some other brief uniform method, whichever you like, and hold to it. Do not change a single syllable, as was just said about the text. Take your time in doing this. For it is not necessary for you to explain all the parts at once, but one after the other. After they understand the First Commandment well, then explain the Second, and so on. Otherwise they will be overwhelmed, so that they will not be able to remember anything well.”
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: 1 John 1:8-9

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Read/Chant Psalm 51

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun, Sept. 20	Gospel Lesson, 17th Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 18:21-35	1 Timothy 3:1-16
Mon, Sept. 21	Gospel Lesson, Commemoration of St. Matthew—Matthew 9:9-13	1 Timothy 4:1-16
Tues, Sept. 22	The Lord Commands a Census—Numbers 1:1-54	1 Timothy 5:1-16
Wed, Sept. 23	The Levites are Called to Service—Numbers 3:1-51	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
Thu, Sept. 24	Our God will abundantly Parton—Isaiah 55:6-9	1 Timothy 6:3-21
Fri, Sept. 25	The Priestly Blessing—Numbers 6:22-27	Matthew 3:1-17
Sat, Sept. 26	First Readings, 18 th Sunday after Pentecost—Revelation 5:9-14	Matthew 4:1-11
Sun, Sept. 27	Gospel Lesson, 18 th Sunday after Pentecost—Luke 2:8-14	Matthew 4:12-25

Collect for the Week of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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.

607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

- 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,
Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?
- 2 Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.
- 3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Text: Public domain

That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

- 4 And though it tarry through the night
And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
Nor count itself forsaken.
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait for His appearing.
- 5 Though great our sins, yet greater still
Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.