

The Congregation at Prayer

The Whole Story

2025

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



Week #39-The Whole Story
13th Week after Trinity

September 21-September 28, 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: Hebrews 11:6 ***“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”***

CATECHISM—Ten Commandments: 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.

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, September 21

- Read **1 Chronicles 1-5**

Monday, September 22

- Read **1 Chronicles 6-10**

Tuesday, September 23

- Read **1 Chronicles 11-15**

GREGORY THE GREAT: (1 Chronicles 11:17-19) I must tell you that I have been led to praise God the more for your work by what I have learned from the report of my most beloved son Probinus the presbyter; namely that, your excellency, having

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86
Text: Public domain

issued a certain ordinance against the perfidy of the Jews, those to whom it related attempted to bend the rectitude of your mind by offering a sum of money, which your excellency scorned, and, seeking to satisfy the judgment of almighty God, preferred innocence to gold. With regard to this, what was done by King David recurs to my mind, who, when he longed for water from the cistern of Bethlehem, which was wedged in by the enemy, had been brought him by obedient soldiers, said, “God forbid that I should drink the blood of righteous men.” And, because he poured it out and would not drink it, it is written, “He offered it a libation to the Lord.” If, then, water was scorned by the armed king and turned into a sacrifice to God, we may estimate what manner of sacrifice to almighty God has been offered by the king who for his love has scorned to receive not water but gold. LETTER 122.¹

Wednesday, September 24

- Read **1 Chronicles 16-20**

JUSTIN MARTYR: (1 Chronicles 16:23-31) In another prophecy the prophetic Spirit, testifying through the same David that after being crucified, Christ would reign, said, “O sing to the Lord, all the earth, and proclaim his salvation from day to day; for

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.

great is the Lord and highly to be praised, terrible beyond all the gods. For all the gods of the nations are images of demons, but God made the heavens. Glory and praise are before him, and strength and pride in the place of his sanctification. Give glory to the Lord, the Father of the ages. Receive favor, and go in before his face, and worship in his holy courts. Let all the earth fear before him and be set upright and not shaken. Let them exult among the nations; the Lord has reigned from the tree.” Now when the prophetic Spirit speaks of things to come as already having happened, as is illustrated in the passages quoted, I will explain this too so that those who come on it will have no excuse for not understanding. Things he fully knows are to happen he speaks of in advance as if they had already occurred. Give careful attention to the passages quoted, and you will see that this is the way they must be taken. David uttered the words quoted above fifteen hundred years before Christ, made man, was crucified, and none of those who were crucified before him gave joy to the nations, nor of those crucified after him either. But in our time Jesus Christ, who was crucified and died, rose again and, ascending into heaven, began to reign; and on account of what was proclaimed by the apostles in all nations as coming from him, there is joy for those who look forward to the incorruption that he has promised. FIRST APOLOGY 41–42.²

² Conti, Marco, and Gianluca Pilara, eds. 2008. [1-2](#)

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.

ORIGEN: (2 Chronicles 1:10) “There was no wise man like you before you, and there will not be after you.” Therefore, because the Lord had given [Solomon] an abundance of prudence, “like the sand of the sea,” that he might judge his people “in wisdom,” thus he could exercise many virtues at the same time. HOMILIES ON GENESIS 11.2.⁵

Sunday, September 28

- Read **2 Chronicles 4-6**

End Every Day

Pray the *Collect for Holy Cross Day*

O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 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.

Thursday, September 25

- Read **1 Chronicles 21-25**

BEDE: (1 Chronicles 21:25-26) David had prepared by singing psalms, and the other prophets too by prophesying prepared for the Lord who was indeed the true Solomon a place that he might build a house, because they taught the hearts of their hearers by true faith, earnestly urging them to receive with faith and devotion the Son of God who was coming in the flesh.... It is appropriate that this place should be on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite because the church is customarily designated by the term “threshing floor,” as John says of the Lord: “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor.” Ornan, whose name means “enlightened” and who was a Jebusite by origin, signifies the Gentiles by his origin, and by his name he indicates these same [Gentiles] who were to be enlightened by the Lord and transformed into children of the church to whom the apostle rightly says, “Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”⁵ Jebus is the same city as Jerusalem. Now Jebus means “trampled on” but Jerusalem “the vision of peace.” As long as the Gentile Ornan reigned there it was called Jebus; but when David bought a place of burnt offering there, when Solomon built a temple

[Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

to the Lord there, it was no longer called Jebus but Jerusalem, because, that is, as long as the Gentiles continued in ignorance of divine worship they were trampled on and made a mockery of by the unclean spirits, following mute idols according as they were led to do; but when they called to mind the grace of their Creator, they immediately found in themselves both the place and the name of peace, as the Lord says of them, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."⁷ Therefore, while Ornan still held sway in this city it was called Jebus, but when he sold the site of his threshing floor together with his oxen and threshing sledges to king David, it took the name Jerusalem because the Gentiles who still persisted in their obstinacy were trampled on as worthless and contemptible by the wicked spirits; but when they learned to sell all they had and offer it to the true king, they could no longer be trampled on by the demons and vices but were given a greater share of inner peace, which they possessed with their Creator. ON THE TEMPLE 1. 5.4–5.³

³ 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.

Friday, September 26

- Read **1 Chronicles 26-29**

JOHN OF DAMASCUS: (1 Chronicles 28:3) "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith." Emperors have not preached the word to you, but apostles and prophets, shepherds and teachers. When God gave commands to David concerning the house David intended to build for him, he said to him, "You may not build a house for my name, for you are a warrior and have shed blood." "Pay all of them their dues," the apostle Paul says, "taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due."² Political prosperity is the business of emperors; the condition of the church is the concern of shepherds and teachers. Any other method is piracy, brothers. Saul tore Samuel's cloak, and what was the consequence? God tore the kingdom away from him and gave it to David the meek. ON DIVINE IMAGES, SECOND APOLOGY 12.⁴

Saturday, September 27

- Read **2 Chronicles 1-3**

⁴ 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.