

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Seventeenth Week after Trinity

September 22, 2024, through September 29, 2024

Life Thoughts-- In Christ God embraced and befriended hearts and bodies ruined by sin. He allowed neither disabilities nor disobedience to separate anyone from His love (Luke 14:1-4). This forgiveness heals us to share the same gracious kingdom with the ones right in front of us who struggle with impairment and iniquity (Luke 14:12-14). *Prayer: Extend Your kingdom, Lord Jesus, through me to those who are broken like I am. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- Luke 14:5 – “And he said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?’” The time is always ripe to do right. God is always calling us to faithfulness and love, which is the fulfillment of the Law. The Pharisees wanted an easier law, something less than love, which was easier to keep. Why? Because they thought they had to in order to be saved. But since we know that Jesus saves by His sacrifice, we are free to see the real Law of love and to strive to fulfill it not out of fear, but out of thanksgiving.

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Ephesians 4:4-6

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Read or Chant Psalm 2

Lord's Prayer--The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Sept. 22	Gospel Lesson, Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity—Luke 14:1-11	Proverbs 25:6-14
Mon., Sept. 23	God had foreseen something better—Hebrews 11:17-40	Daniel 3:1-30
Tues., Sept. 24	The Lord disciplines him whom he loves—Hebrews 12:5-17	Daniel 4:1-37
Wed, Sept. 25	Through him let us praise God—Hebrews 13:1-25	Daniel 5:1-30
Thurs, Sept. 26	Blessed is he who endures trial—James 1:7-15	Daniel 5:31-6:28
Fri., Sept. 27	Show no partiality—James 2:1-13	Ezra 1:1-11
Sat., Sept. 28	Faith apart from works is dead—James 2:14-26	Ezra 3:1-13
Sun., Sept. 29	Gospel Lesson, St. Michael & All Angels—Luke 10:17-20	Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3

Pray the Collect for the Seventeenth 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 and Petitions

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.

Hymn of the Week

Seek Where You May to Find a Way

LSB 557

- 1 Seek where you may
To find a way
That leads to your salvation.
My heart is stilled,
On Christ I build,
He is the one foundation.
His Word is sure,
His works endure;
He overthrows
All evil foes;
Through Him I more than conquer.
- 2 Seek whom you may
To be your stay,
None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed;
This man prevailed,
The God-man and none other,
Our Servant-King
Of whom we sing.
We're justified
Because He died,
The guilty being guiltless.

- 3 Seek Him alone
Who did atone,
Who did your souls deliver.
O seek Him first,
All you who thirst
For grace that fails you never.
In ev'ry need
Seek Him indeed;
To ev'ry heart
He will impart
His blessings without measure.
- 4 My heart's delight,
My crown most bright,
O Christ, my joy forever.
Not wealth nor pride
Nor fortune's tide
Our bonds of love shall sever.
You are my Lord;
Your precious Word
Shall guide my way
And help me stay
Forever in Your presence.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.

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Looking forward to St. Michael and All Angels

September 29, 2024

HYMNS: 670, 941, 522, 521

Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 10:17-20