

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Eighteenth Week after Trinity*

*September 29, 2024, through October 6, 2024*

**Life Thoughts--** Those who see abortion as just “another issue” and would support or encourage a woman to make such a choice fail to understand the scriptural concept of “neighbor” and have a false sense of what it means to love. Those who see both mother and unborn child as “neighbor” and take action to bring help and hope fulfill the second greatest commandment in the Law and reflect the love of Christ (Matthew 22:34-40).

**Stewardship Thoughts-- 1 Corinthians 1:4 – “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.”** The grace of God and thanksgiving go together. When God gives to us, thankfulness wells up inside of us. How could it not? And as Paul shows us here, it’s not only the grace given to us that causes us to give thanks, but even the grace given to others. We certainly have much to be thankful for when we look at the gifts of grace all around us.

*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: Luke 10:20**

**“Do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 91*

## **Lord’s Prayer--The Second Petition**

*Thy kingdom come.*

**What does this mean?** The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

**How does God’s Kingdom come?** God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for Daily Devotions</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sun., Sept. 15	<b>Epistle Lesson, St. Michael &amp; All Angels—Revelation 12:7-12</b>	Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Mon., Sept. 16	We who teach shall be judged—James 3:1-18	Ezra 4:1-24
Tues., Sept. 17	God opposes the proud—James 4:1-5:6	Haggai 1:1-15
Wed, Sept. 18	The prayer of faith will save the sick man—James 5:12-15	Ezra 5:1-17
Thurs, Sept. 19	Whoever brings back a sinner from error...-James 5:16-20	Ezra 6:1-22
Fri., Sept. 20	Wives, be submissive to your husbands—1 Peter 3:1-7	Ezra 7:1-28
Sat., Sept. 21	Tend the flock of God—1 Peter 5:1-5	Ezra 8:31-9:15
Sun., Sept. 22	Gospel Lesson, Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 9:1-8	Genesis 28:10-17

## **Pray the Collect for St. Michael & All Angels:**

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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*

### *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

*LSB 670*

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"  
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,  
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

2 O higher than the cherubim,  
More glorious than the seraphim,  
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!"  
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
All saints triumphant, raise the song:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
Supernal anthems echoing:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!"  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One:  
"Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Text: J. Athelstan L. Riley, 1858–1945, alt.  
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*Looking forward to 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

*October 6, 2024*

**HYMNS: 981, 708, 609, 917**

**Genesis 28:10-17**

**Ephesians 4:22-28**

**Matthew 9:1-8**