

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Fifteenth Week after Trinity

September 8, 2024, through September 15, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week : **AUGUSTINE** (354-430AD): There can be no doubt, of course, that the poor man being God-fearing, while trapped in his temporal miseries, was thinking how this life must end sometime and how eternal rest is to be gained. They both died, but that poor man's thoughts did not perish on that day. You see, it happened that the beggar died and was taken away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. On that day all his thoughts were healed. And because Lazarus translated into English¹¹ means "Helped"—if you are called Lazarus in Hebrew, you are called "Helped" in English—this psalm has rightly advised us, "Blessed is he whose helper is the God of Jacob." When his spirit goes out and his flesh returns to its earth, his thoughts will not perish, because "his hope is in the Lord his God." This is the lesson learned in the school of Christ the teacher, this is what is hoped for by the heart of the faithful hearer, this is the reward of the only true savior."¹³ SERMON 33A.4.¹

Life Thoughts-- Our God Jesus has set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He also gives us the gift of dependence, to depend upon Him in faith and on one another in love and service (Galatians 6:2). Rather than diminishing our humanity, mutual dependence dignifies it. *Lord Jesus, help me to depend upon You with Your people and defend those who depend upon me. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- Matthew 6:24 – “You cannot serve God and money.” In today's Gospel, Jesus gives the first and last word about our stewardship — well, you have to go back a few verses to verse 19 to get the whole thing: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Read Matt. 5:19–34 again this week at home and consider your generosity to the Lord's work in light of what Jesus says.

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: Galatians 5:22-23

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Read or Chant Psalm 146

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., September 8	Gospel Lesson, Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 6:24-34	1 Kings 17:8-16
Mon., Sept. 9	Insist on these things—Titus 3:8-15	2 Kings 20:1-21
Tues., Sept. 10	I Hear of your love and of the faith—Philemon 1-25	2 Kings 21:1-26
Wed, Sept. 11	Thou art the same and Thy years will never end—Hebrews 1:5-14	2 Chronicles 34:1-33
Thurs, Sept. 12	Christ was faithful over God's house as a Son—Hebrews 3:1-6	2 Chronicles 35:20-36:10
Fri., Sept. 13	He can deal gently with the wayward—Hebrews 4:14-5:14	Jeremiah 22:1-30
Sat., Sept. 14	Be imitators of those who inherit the promises—Hebrews 6:1-20	Jeremiah 25:1-14
Sun., Sept. 15	Gospel Lesson, Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity—Luke 7:11-17	1 Kings 17:17-24

¹ Wesselschmidt, Quentin F., ed. 2007. [Psalms 51–150](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture OT 8. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Pray the Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity:

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; 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

Hymn of the Week

What God Ordains is Always Good

LSB 719

1 What God ordains is always good:
His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed
In ev'ry need
Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

2 What God ordains is always good:
He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way,
And never will He leave me.
I take content
What He has sent;
His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

3 What God ordains is always good:
His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup
That my physician sends me.
My God is true;
Each morning new
I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

4 What God ordains is always good:
He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm
Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know
Both joy and woe;
Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

5 What God ordains is always good:
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief
God gives relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm,
For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;

So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: Public domain

Looking forward to Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 15, 2024

HYMNS: 570, 544, 642, 461, 793

1 Kings 17:17-24

Ephesians 3:13-21

Luke 7:11-17