

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

St. James the Elder, Apostle – July 25, 2021

Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order

Invocation

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

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

Verse of the Month

Psalm 33:12a: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD"

10 Commandments & Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Week

What Is the World to Me (LSB 730 TLH 430)

Reading from Holy Scripture

Members may choose...

- *Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children's The Story Bible (CPH)*
- *Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB p. 299-304)*

Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Monday: II Samuel 22:26-34

Tuesday: I Corinthians 10:6-13

Wednesday: Luke 16:1-13

Thursday: "The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly" (Luke 16:1-9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when the earthly fails. These are our escape in temptation (1 Cor. 10:6-13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam 22:26-34).

Catechism for the Week: Christian Questions and Their Answers

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.*
- 2. How do you know this? From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.*
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins? Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.*
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins? His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation (Romans 6:21, 23).*

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

O Lord God, heavenly Father, who have abundantly given to us rich blessings and daily bread: we beseech You to keep us from coveting and to awaken our hearts, that we may gladly give to the poor and share with them, that we may be

found as faithful stewards over Your goods and not be left to starve for eternity when we are summoned from the stewardship and come before Your judgment seat. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Bill Heck, Kathy Foat, Bill Lindbloom, Arnie Oelkers, Debbie Jutrzonka

Lord's Prayer

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.

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.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Month

Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care (*LSB 757/TLH 527*)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration pp. 550-559

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)

Hymns for next week

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