

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
*A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following*  
*Twelfth Sunday after Trinity – August 22, 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 32

***Verse[s] of the Month***

Luke 1:46-47: “And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.’”

***10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed***

***Hymn of the Week***

O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold (TLH 260)

***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 Feast of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist***

Monday: Revelation 6:9-11

Tuesday: Romans 6:1-5

Wednesday: Mark 6:14-29

Thursday: “*Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!*” (Rom. 6:1–2). John preached the Law boldly against Herod’s adultery with Herodias. Choosing human honor over honesty, Herod served up John’s head on a platter to pacify Herodias’ conscience without the contrition and repentance of Baptism (Mark 6:17–28). So John was “*slain for the word of God and for the witness [he] had borne*” (Rev. 6:9). John is Christ’s forerunner also in death; other fellow servants and brothers continue to be martyrs (witnesses) of Christ to this day (Rev. 6:11). Their deaths are “*precious in the sight of the LORD*” (Ps. 116:15) and so also to us, who celebrate even a beheading. Such is the confidence of the baptized! “*Buried therefore with him by baptism into death,*” we believe “*we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his*” also (Rom. 6:4–5). United to Christ, the Church’s Head, John can be confident that He will be reunited to His own at the Last Day. Even John isn’t really the forerunner, because Jesus has gone before us all: out of the tomb alive, the firstborn of those who sleep!

***Catechism for the Week: Christian Questions and Their Answers***

14. *What convinces you to believe this?* The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood. 15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?* We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. 16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?* First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

***Prayers:***

***Collect of the Week (LSB 518:24)***

Our thanks for John the Baptist Who, till his dying day, Made straight paths for the Savior And heralded His way! In witnessing to Jesus Through times of threat or shame May we with faith and courage The Lamb of God proclaim. 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.

***Mealttime 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***

The Magnificat (LSB 231/TLH 43)

***Reading from the Book of Concord***

Portions of Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration pp. 584-593

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)

***Hymns for Next Week***

(Wed 880 Sun 590)-TLH 260-708/632/724-231-518:1,24,3