

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Trinity VII – July 23rd, 2023

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 26

Verse of the Month

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

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

In God, My Faithful God (LSB 745/TLH 526)

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 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Monday: Jeremiah 23:16-29

Tuesday: Romans 8:12-17

Wednesday: Matthew 7:15-23

Thursday: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matt 7:15-23). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer 23:16-29) They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. "You will know them by their fruits." The "fruits" of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father's adopted ones (Rom 8:12-17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27-38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit, namely the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

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).

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You with our whole heart that You have caused us to come to the knowledge of Your precious Word, and we beseech You graciously to preserve us in that Word and to grant us a blessed death in the same. Mercifully defend from every evil all godly preachers who faithfully proclaim Your Word, and sustain their life. But if any handle Your Word unfaithfully and, having the appearance of godly sheep, are ravenous wolves, punish them according as they deserve, and graciously restrain them and keep Your poor Christendom from them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Lisa Salo, Todd Morawetz, Betty Beierle, Ronald Baumgart

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

From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (LSB 607, TLH 329)

Reading from the Book of Concord

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

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)