

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Trinity XVIII – October 8th, 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 84

Verse of the Month

Romans 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart (*LSB 708/TLH 429*)

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 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Monday: Isaiah 44:21-23

Tuesday: Ephesians 4:22-28

Wednesday: Matthew 9:1-8

Thursday: The Lord does not to require us to ascend to Him; in mercy He descends to us (Gen 28:10-17). The ladder in Jacob's dream was not for climbing; it was the means by which the Lord came to bless Jacob. This event finds its fulfillment in Christ who descended from His throne to save and bless us. By His incarnation He is the eternal bridge between heaven and earth. "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" (Matt 9:1-8). The Lord was present in the flesh to absolve the paralytic. Jesus also healed and restored this man's body. "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism). The Lord still has power on earth to forgive sins. For "God has given such power to men." In holy absolution He raises up the new man (Eph 4:22-28) and bestows the healing medicine which will bring about our resurrection on the Last Day. Thus we say with Jacob, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

Catechism for the Week: Seventh and Eighth Commandments

What is the Seventh Commandment? You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

What is the Eighth Commandment? You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Almighty, everlasting God, who by Your Son, Jesus Christ, graciously caused the paralytic to be healed in body and soul: I beseech You of Your boundless mercy to be gracious to me also, and forgive me all my sins, strengthen my faith by Your Word and Holy Spirit, and so direct me that I may not by sin and weakness cause hardship for others, but may continue in Your fear, and so be released from wrath and punishment temporal and eternal. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Linda Winkelman, Jean Luerssen, Lisa Salo, Betty Beierle, Ronald Baumgart, Janet Buchholtz, Breanne Schultz, Carrie Strueder

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

God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage (*LSB 582, TLH 283*)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of Luther’s Large Catechism p.370-379

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (CPH)