

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Ninth Sunday after Trinity—August 17, 2025

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 121

Verse of the Month

Luke 2:50 “His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

God Has Spoken by His Prophets (LSB 583)

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 St. Bartholomew

Monday: Proverbs 3:1–8

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4:7–10

Wednesday: Luke 22:24–30 or John 1:43–51

Thursday: Skinned alive! That, according to tradition, is how Bartholomew (called Nathanael in John) was martyred. Christ’s preachers are not to be great lords, but servants who faithfully stay with Christ in His trials (Luke 22:24–30). They are “jars of clay”; the Savior they preach is the “surpassing power” (2 Cor. 4:7). Christ’s servants are “afflicted in every way,” “always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested” there (2 Cor. 4:8–10). On the foundation of their prophetic and apostolic confession, the Church is built, “joined together” by Christ, “the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20–21). As an apostle (Luke 6:13–14), Bartholomew manifested “the Son of God” in his preaching and his death. Christ is the “Son of Man” — the King who opens heaven to us by His wounds (John 1:49–51). We bear sufferings not leaning “on [our] own understanding,” but trusting in the Lord (Prov. 3:5–7). Life will be manifested in our bodies, too, when the Lord brings “healing to [our] flesh and refreshment to [our] bones” in the resurrection (Prov. 3:8). For this reason, Bartholomew is often depicted holding his flayed skin. He will have need of it on the Last Day — at least for sizing.

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 (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Almighty, everlasting God, who by Your Holy Spirit have revealed and made known to us Your Word concerning Your Son, Jesus Christ: we beseech You to awaken our hearts, that we may receive it earnestly and not cast it to the wind nor listen carelessly, as did Your people, the unbelieving Jews, that we may daily live and increase in Your fear and in true confidence in Your mercy, and at last obtain salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons, Rebecca Rauterberg, Betty Beierle, Alice Terry

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

Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit (LSB 746/TLH 372)

Reading from the Book of Concord

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

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)