

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Holy Cross – September 14, 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 119:33-40

Verse of the Month

Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (*LSB* 940)

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. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday: Ezekiel 2:8–3:11

Tuesday: Ephesians 4:7–16

Wednesday: Matthew 9:9–13

Thursday: Our ascended Lord gives “gifts” to His Church. In particular, He gave apostles and evangelists like St. Matthew, prophets like Ezekiel, and still gives pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:8, 11). All are “for the common good ... empowered by one and the same Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:7, 11). They speak Christ’s “truth in love” to wind- and wave-tossed children so that the saints may be equipped, served and built up as the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:12–15). Christ is not only the head of this body, He is her Good Physician (Matt. 9:9–13). He has come not for the well but for the sick, not for “the righteous, but sinners” (Matt. 9:13) — even notorious tax collectors like Matthew. Christ’s team of spiritual physicians must serve faithfully. Their instrument is “thus says the Lord GOD,” to be spoken “whether they hear or refuse to hear” (Ezek. 3:11). To those stubborn, rebellious patients who believe they need no physician, the word “of lamentation and mourning and woe” must be fearlessly spoken: God’s Law calls to repentance (Ezek. 2:10). To those who recognize their trouble and sickness, the salve of the Gospel is to be applied. So Christ works to save us, as Matthew’s Gospel records.

Catechism for the Week: Third and Fourth Commandments

The Third Commandment You shall sanctify the holy day. [Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.]

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment You shall honor your father and your mother [that it may be well with you and you may live long upon the earth].

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we may not despise or anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve them, obey them, and hold them in love and esteem.

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, who by Your Son, Jesus Christ, through Your Word and Holy Baptism, have graciously saved us believers from the detestable leprosy of sin and still demonstrate Your gracious help each day in all that we need: we beseech You to awaken our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may never forget these benefits, but live continually in Your fear and hearty confidence in Your mercy, and with a joyful heart give thanks and praise to You forevermore. Amen

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons, Rebecca Rauterberg, Betty Beierle, Alice Terry, Arnie Oelkers

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

I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb (*LSB* 740/ *TLH* 648)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of Luther’s Large Catechism p.351-361

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (*CPH*)