

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity – August 23, 2026

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 32

Verse of the Month

Psalm 3:1-3 ¹ Lord, how they have increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me! ² Many there be that say of my soul, “There is no help for him in God.” ³ But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory and the lifter up of mine head.

10 Commandments & Apostles’ Creed

Hymn of the Week

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me (*LSB* 683/*TLH* 349)

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 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Monday: Leviticus 19:9-18

Tuesday: Galatians 3:16-22

Wednesday: Luke 10:23-37

Thursday: The Law cannot help us or give us life. Rather, it confines everyone under sin as wounded and naked before God (Gal. 3:16-22). So it is that two figures of the Law, the priest and the Levite, passed by the injured man on the side of the road (Luke 10:23-37). Only the promised Seed of Abraham can rescue us and make us righteous before God. Only the Samaritan, our Lord Jesus, had compassion, as did the Samaritans of old (II Chronicles 28:8-15). He came down to us in our lost and dying condition, pouring on the oil and wine of the Sacraments. He placed us on His own animal, bearing our sin and brokenness in His body on the cross to restore us. Jesus brought us to the inn, that is, the Church, and gave the innkeeper two denarii, that His double forgiveness might continue to be ministered to us. In this way the Lord, by whose Law we are torn and stricken, heals us and revives us by His Gospel and raises us up with Himself.

Catechism for the Week: Christian Questions and Their Answers

20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: First, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and

trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in I John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; I Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and II Timothy 2.

Note: These questions and answers are no child’s play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked.”

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You from our inmost heart that You have granted us to see this blessed time in which we hear the blessed doctrine of Your Gospel, and by it are able to know Your will and fatherly heart and behold Your Son, Jesus Christ. We beseech You of Your boundless mercy graciously to sustain the blessed light of Your Word, and so to rule and direct us by Your Holy Spirit that we may never turn aside from it, but rather forsaking all things, cling firmly to it, and at last obtain salvation. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons, Betty Beierle, Vonnice McDermott, Hella Goering, 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 all evil, so 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, so that the wicked 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, 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, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord; and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire 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

Thine Honor Save, O Christ, Our Lord (*TLH* 265)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration pp. 602-611

From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)