

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity – October 4, 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 84

Verse of the Month

Psalm 3:7-8 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For Thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheekbone; Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

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: Ninth and Tenth Commandments

The Ninth Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of [justice and] right, or any other means, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is his.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we may not turn, force, or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and [carefully] do their duty.

Prayers:

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:

Mark Siddons, Betty Beierle, 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.

Mealttime 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

O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold (*TLH* 260)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of Luther's Large Catechism p.379-389

From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (*CPH*)