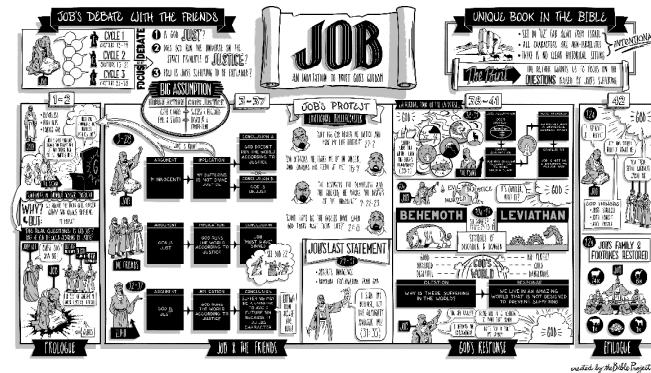


Prayer
Requests



The Congregation at Prayer
The Whole Story
2025
A Daily Devotional
St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Week #6-The Whole Story
Week of the Presentation of Our Lord
February 2-February 9, 2025

Start Every Day

“In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

recite APOSTLE’S CREED

Read Catechism—Sacrament of the Altar: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

VERSE: Matthew 4:4 ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.***

PRAYER of the WORD

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 2

- Read ***Psalm 33*** (Shout for joy in the LORD)
- Read ***The Writings: Job 1-3***

Hesychius of Jerusalem (412-450AD): You see the greatness of Job's external wealth; but his internal wealth was even greater. The visible riches were splendid, but the invisible riches were even more splendid because they last; visible riches grow old, lose their value and continually collapse into the most pitiful corruption and destruction.

Homilies on Job 1.1.2-3e.¹

Monday, February 3

- Read ***Psalm 34*** (Taste and see that the LORD is Good.)
- Read ***The Writings: Job 4-6***

¹ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [*Job*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- 5 O blessèd heir of heaven,
You'll hear the song resound
Of endless jubilation
When you with life are crowned.
In your right hand your maker
Will place the victor's palm,
And you will thank Him gladly
With heaven's joyful psalm.
- 6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen;
With joy our spirits bless
Until we see the ending
Of all our life's distress.
And so throughout our lifetime
Keep us within Your care
And at our end then bring us
To heav'n to praise You there.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; (sts. 1-5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, alt.; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
Text (sts. 1-5): © 1982 Concordia Publishing House; (st. 6): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895

754 Entrust Your Days and Burdens

- 1 Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.
- 2 Rely on God your Savior
And find your life secure.
Make His work your foundation
That your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry,
No self-tormenting care
Can win your Father's favor;
His heart is moved by prayer.
- 3 Take heart, have hope, my spirit,
And do not be dismayed;
God helps in ev'ry trial
And makes you unafraid.
Await His time with patience
Through darkest hours of night
Until the sun you hoped for
Delights your eager sight.
- 4 Leave all to His direction;
His wisdom rules for you
In ways to rouse your wonder
At all His love can do.
Soon He, His promise keeping,
With wonder-working pow'rs
Will banish from your spirit
What gave you troubled hours.

CHRYSOSTOM (344-407AD): Through these words Eliphaz shows the excellence of God. Since it was natural for Job to examine his own situation on the ground of his personal reflections, observe what Eliphaz says: "Do not speak so." God is great. He does many things that we don't understand. Our lowliness is profound.... Whatever God might do, he does well. COMMENTARY ON JOB 5:1A.²

Tuesday, February 4

- Read **Psalm 35** (Great is the LORD!)
- Read **The Writings: Job 7-9**

GREGORY THE GREAT (540-604AD): "My days pass more swiftly than the weaving of cloth by the weaver." In a very suitable image, the time of the flesh is compared with a cloth web. As the web advances thread by thread, so this mortal life passes day by day; in proportion as the web increases, so it advances to its completion. Just as we said before, while the time in our hands passes, the time before us is shortened. Moreover, of the whole length of our lives, the days to come are proportionally fewer to those days that have gone by. MORALS ON THE BOOK OF JOB 8.26.³

² Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Wednesday, February 5

- Read *Psalm 36* (Your steadfast love, O LORD)
- Read *The Writings: Job 10-12*

GREGORY THE GREAT: Therefore it often happens that the mind of the righteous man, in order to be made more secure, is the more penetrated with fear, and when he is beset with scourges, he is troubled with misgivings about the judgment of the Most High. He fears lest all that he suffers should be the forerunner of an ensuing doom. In his heart, he questions the Judge with the result that under his visitation he is full of doubts about the merit of his life. However, when the goodness of his life is brought before the eyes of the mind, it is as if the Judge gave comfort in the answer whereby he never strikes to destroy but strikes to sustain the innocency of life and conduct. Therefore, it is justly said here, "Show me why you judge me so." As if it were expressed in plain words, "Whereas you exercise judgment upon me by scourging me, show me that by these scourges you are making me secure against judgment." ... This same thing is also said by way of a negating interrogation, as though it were said in plain terms: "You who are supremely good, I know do not hold it good to oppress the poor man by calumny. Therefore, I know that it is not unjust that I am suffering, and I am the more

stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Your Personal Prayers

pray **LORD'S PRAYER**

Luther's 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.

Luther's 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.

which he who previously lived in luxury finally finds himself.

“He will raise up my body that endures these sufferings, for it is the Lord who caused them.” Did Job know the doctrine of resurrection? I believe so, and the doctrine concerning the resurrection of the body, unless he says here that the resurrection that he speaks about is the deliverance from the afflictions that pressed him. That is why, Job says, even after my deliverance, I want my afflictions to be immortal. This is an extremely wise way to keep always before one’s eyes the punishments of God even after they have gone.... “For it is the Lord,” he says, “who caused these sufferings.” Job is correct in saying that the Lord will be the actual cause of his change. “He strikes,” Job says, “and he heals.” COMMENTARY ON JOB 19:25–26.⁷

Sunday, February 9

- Read ***Psalm 40*** (Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust)
- Read ***The Writings: Job 22-24***

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot

⁷ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

grieved that I cannot tell the causes of its justness.” MORALS ON THE BOOK OF JOB 9.69–70.⁴

Thursday, February 6

- Read ***Psalm 37*** (Delight yourself in the LORD)
- Read ***The Writings: Job 13-15***

HESYCHIUS OF JERUSALEM: This means, “I know the tremendous greatness of God, the endless wisdom of the Creator and his prodigious power; but even though I know that, ‘I will speak to the Lord,’ because if I know his power, I also know his justice. For he is just, he supports those who in the meantime, without rendering themselves accusers, speak to him. This teaches people that even though they are very righteous, they have to accept the judgments given to them. That is why ‘I will reason before him, if he wants to.’ For if he does not want, I will remain silent, because I know what is honorable to the servant. It is according to the command of the Lord that I will speak and will have the boldness to ‘reason before him.’ ” HOMILIES ON JOB 15.13.3.⁵

⁴ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁵ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Friday, February 7

- Read **Psalm 38** (O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger)
- Read **The Writings: Job 16-18**

GREGORY THE GREAT: “Set me free and put me beside you, and let the hand of anyone fight against me,” for Christ did not sin, either in thought or deed. He was made to “abide in bitterness” by his passion. He was “set free” by resurrection. He was “put beside” the Father by his ascension, in that having gone up into heaven he sits on the right hand of God. And because, after the glory of his ascension, Judea was stirred up in persecuting his disciples, it is rightly said here, “Let the hand of anyone fight against me.” For the madness of the persecutors did then rage on Christ’s members, and the flame of cruelty blazed out against the life of the faithful. But where should the wicked go, or what should they do, while he whom they persecuted on earth is now seated in heaven? Concerning whom it is yet further added, “You have removed their heart far from discipline. Therefore they shall not be exalted.” If they had been acquainted with the keeping of discipline, and had not ever despised the precepts of our Redeemer, the mere mortal condition of their flesh by itself would have excited them to the love of immortal life. For this reason even the fact that we are subject to corruption in this life is due to our need for learning discipline.... Therefore, insofar as the heart is under discipline, it seeks after the things above; it is not enthralled

with transitory good things. But of those whose heart is not under discipline, it is rightly said, “Therefore they shall not be exalted,” for even while they are freed to pursue the lowest enjoyments, they are ever longing for the good things of the earth. MORALS ON THE BOOK OF JOB 13.35–37.⁶

Saturday, February 8

- Read **Psalm 39** (What is the measure of my days?)
- Read **The Writings: Job 19-21**

CHRYSOSTOM: “For I know that he, who is about to deliver me on earth, is immortal.” That is, he who has to deliver me on earth is God. What does this mean? If God is immortal, why do you want your words to be written and their memory to remain eternally, in an imperishable manner? Notice the state of the soul of those who are in distress. They want not only those who are seeing these events now, but also those, who will come later, to be witnesses of their own misfortunes, in order to obtain, in a sense, a certain sympathy from everyone. This is evidently what the rich man tried to do when he wanted to inform everybody about his own misfortunes and about the situation in

⁶ Simonetti, Manlio, and Marco Conti, eds. 2006. [Job](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.