

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Seventh Week after Trinity

July 14, 2024, through July 21, 2024

**Patristic Quote for the Week :** CHRYSOSTOM (344-407AD): Paul does not parallel “the wages of sin” with “the wages of good deeds” because he wants to show that they were not set free by their own efforts, nor had they done anything to earn their salvation. It was by grace alone that all these things came about. HOMILIES ON ROMANS 12.<sup>1</sup>

**Life Thoughts--** Jesus declares and demonstrates compassion even for those who cannot feed themselves or walk on their own (Mark 8:1-3). He who breathes life into each human body (Genesis 2:7) also provides everything necessary to survive (Mark 8:8) and promises all the abundance of Eden’s paradise in the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). And He mercifully involves us in this miraculous ministry (Mark 8:5-8)!  
*Almighty Maker, show through us the life-giving compassion You have shown to us. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts-- Romans 8:16 – “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”** Children are called to grow up into the image of their Father. That’s the basis not only of our generosity, but of our entire life as Christians. God sets the pattern and we follow. God is kind to us in Christ, and so we desire to be kind. God is loving to us in Christ, and so we desire to love. God is generous and open-handed to us in Christ, and so we desire to be generous and open-handed.

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## Invocation

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Apostles’ Creed

**Verse: Romans 6:23**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 33:1-11*

| Day            | Bible Stories for Daily Devotions                             | Second Reading       |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Sun., July 8   | <b>Gospel Lesson, Seventh Sunday after Trinity—Mark 8:1-9</b> | Genesis 2:7-17       |
| Mon., July 9   | You were bought with a price—1 Corinthians 5:9-6:20           | 1 Chronicles 16:1-43 |
| Tues., July 10 | Each man should have his own wife—1 Corinthians 7:1-40        | 2 Samuel 7:1-29      |
| Wed, July 11   | Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up—1 Corinthians 8:1-13   | 2 Samuel 12:1-23     |
| Thurs, July 12 | I have become all things to all men—1 Corinthians 9:1-23      | 2 Samuel 15:1-15     |
| Fri., July 13  | We who are many are one body—1 Corinthians 10:14-33           | 2 Samuel 16:5-23     |
| Sat., July 14  | Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ—1 Corinthians 11:1-22   | 2 Samuel 18:1-33     |
| Sun., July 15  | Gospel Lesson, Eighth Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 7:15-23    | Jeremiah 23:16-29    |

## Pray the Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity:

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Bray, Gerald, ed. 1998. [Romans \(Revised\)](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

*Personal Prayers and Petitions*

*Lord's Prayer*

*Hymn of the Week*

*Sing Praise to God, the Highest God*

*LSB 819*

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,  
The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood  
Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills  
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 2 What God's almighty pow'r has made,  
In mercy He is keeping.  
By morning glow or evening shade  
His eye is never sleeping.  
Within the kingdom of His might  
All things are just and good and right:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress;  
O God, in mercy hear us.  
Our Savior saw our helplessness  
And came with peace to cheer us.

For this we thank and praise the Lord,  
Who is by one and all adored:  
To God all praise and glory!

- 4 He never shall forsake His flock,  
His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock,  
Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
He leads His own, His chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!
- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name,  
Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim  
Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne,  
For God is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.  
Text: Public domain

*Looking forward to Eighth Sunday after Trinity*

*July 21, 2024*

**HYMNS: 668, 614, 633, 643**

**Jeremiah 23:16-29**

**Acts 20:27-38**

**Matthew 7:15-23**