

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Eighth Week after Trinity

July 21, 2024, through July 28, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week : **CHRYSOSTOM** (344-407AD): Do not think that I am lamenting as I say this. “I do not consider my life so precious.” He says this to elevate their mind and to persuade them not only not to flee but to bear it nobly. For this reason he calls it “course” and “ministry”: “course,” or “race,” because of the glory; “ministry,” because of the obligation. I am a minister, he says; I have nothing more. **HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 44.**¹

Life Thoughts-- The relaxing lies our culture prophesies cannot even approach our Lord’s promises (Jeremiah 23:16-18). We speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly and gladly (Jeremiah 23:28-29), though it earns us persecution, because He sets great joy before us. In this faith we will sit around His throne with the cloud of witnesses His Word saved. *Lamb of God, You have given me Your people’s crown of life; forge in me Your prophets’ faith. 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: Acts 20:24

“I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Read or Chant Psalm 26

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., July 21	Gospel Lesson, Eighth Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 7:15-23	Jeremiah 23:16-29
Mon., July 22	You are the body of Christ—1 Corinthians 12:27-31	2 Samuel 19:1-23
Tues., July 23	He who prophesies edifies the church—1 Corinthians 12:27-31	1 Chronicles 21:1-30
Wed, July 24	Be steadfast, immovable—1 Corinthians 15:58-16:24	1 Chronicles 22:1-19
Thurs, July 25	God...comforts us in all our afflictions—2 Corinthians 1:1-11	1 Chronicles 28:1-21
Fri., July 26	We are not...peddlers of God’s Word—2 Corinthians 2:1-3:3	1 Chronicles 29:1-23
Sat., July 27	Godly grief produces a repentance that saves—2 Corinthians 6:11-7:16	2 Chronicles 1:1-13
Sun., July 28	Gospel Lesson, Ninth Sunday after Trinity—Luke 16:1-9	2 Samuel 22:26-34

¹ Martin, Francis, and Evan Smith, eds. 2006. [Acts](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Pray the Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity:

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord's Prayer

Hymn of the Week

"As Surely as I Live," God Said

LSB 614

sts. 1-5

- 1 "As surely as I live," God said,
"I would not see the sinner dead.
I want him turned from error's ways,
Repentant, living endless days."
- 2 And so our Lord gave this command:
"Go forth and preach in ev'ry land;
Bestow on all My pard'ning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways.
- 3 "All those whose sins you thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
Text: Public domain

- And those whose sins you will retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain.
- 4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be;
What you will loose, that shall be free;
To My dear Church the keys are giv'n
To open, close the gates of heav'n."
- 5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.

Looking forward to Ninth Sunday after Trinity

July 28, 2024

HYMNS: 668, 614, 633, 924

2 Samuel 22:26-34

1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Luke 16:1-9