

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Twentieth Week after Trinity*

*October 13, 2024, through October 20, 2024*

**Life Thoughts**-- The Reformation truths Lutherans have celebrated for 500 years apply beautifully and powerfully to life issues. A human being's identity and sanctity come from God's grace in creating, redeeming, and calling each one. Abilities or accomplishments, efforts or emotions cannot establish anyone's value or invalidate anyone's worth. *Prayer: Gracious Savior, let us honor with You the preciousness of every human person because of Your grace, forgiveness, and free salvation. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts**-- Isaiah 55:2 – “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” What Isaiah says here is reminiscent of what Jesus says about putting our earthly wealth in places where “moth and rust destroy” (Matt. 6:19). Where we put the money God has given us to manage says a lot about the way in which we actually view life. What do your spending priorities say about what you think is truly important in life?

*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: Ephesians 5:18-21**

**“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 27:1-9*

## Lord's Prayer--The Fourth Petition

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

**What does this mean?** God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

**What is meant by daily bread?** Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Oct. 13	<b>Epistle Lesson, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 22:1-14</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9
Mon., Oct. 14	The measure you give will be the measure you get—Mark 4:1-41	Isaiah 43:1-13
Tues., Oct. 15	Strive to enter by the narrow door—Luke 13:18-35	Isaiah 41:1-20
Wed, Oct. 16	The righteous will shine like the sun—Matthew 13:33-52	Habakkuk 2:1-4
Thurs, Oct. 17	We all beholding the glory of the Lord—2 Corinthians 3:12-18	Isaiah 63:7-19
Fri., Oct. 18	We preach not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord—2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Isaiah 64:1-12
Sat., Oct. 19	God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself—2 Corinthians 5:1-21	Isaiah 5:1-7
Sun., Oct. 20	Gospel Lesson, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity—John 4:46-54	Genesis 1:1-2:3

**Pray the Collect for Twentieth Sunday after Trinity:**

O Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; 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**

**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.

**Hymn of the Week**

**We are Called to Stand Together**

**LSB 828**

1 We are called to stand together  
With the saints of ages past,  
With the patriarchs and prophets  
In the faith they once held fast;  
Promises and hopes they treasured  
Now we find fulfilled at last!

2 Those whom Jesus called apostles  
Journeyed with Him side by side,  
Heard His teaching, felt His power,  
Saw the way He lived and died;  
Then the news of resurrection  
They delivered far and wide.

3 Through the intervening ages  
Round the world the Gospel spread:  
Faithful heralds took the message,  
Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, 1962  
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Guided where the Spirit led;  
So the body grew in stature,  
Serving Christ, the living head.

4 Now in many tongues and cultures  
Songs of celebration ring;  
Millions who confess our Savior  
Honor Him as Lord and King  
And, for courage, grace and guidance  
Ev'ry day their prayers they bring.

5 To each coming generation  
Tell the truth, persuade, explain,  
Till the time when time is ended,  
Till the Savior comes again—  
Till the saints are all united  
Under Christ's eternal reign!

**Looking forward to 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**October 20, 2024**

**HYMNS: 578, 607, 801, 803**

**Genesis 1:1-2:3**

**Ephesians 6:10-17**

**John 4:46-54**