

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Twenty-First Week after Trinity*

*October 20, 2024, through October 27, 2024*

**Life Thoughts--** The picture of the armor-clad Christian in Ephesians 6:10-20 is one of defense not offense. We are not fighting to obtain truth. We have the truth. We fight to defend the truth upon which we stand. Be encouraged in this spiritual battle that can seem so frustrating at times. “[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” (6:10). *Prayer: Thank You for Your truth, Lord, and Your armor. Help us stand firm. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts-- Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created ...”** Many studies report that atheism is on the rise in our culture. The appeal of atheism is in the denial of a Creator. If the world just happens to exist, and we are just accidents that arose out of a long process of random, directionless evolution, then we get to make our own rules, and nobody has any right to tell us otherwise. Because if there is a Creator, then obviously He would know best, and we would do best, to follow His commands. Of course, we Christians know this Creator very well, and we have seen not only His power and commands, but also His grace and mercy in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*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: Genesis 1:27**

**“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 8*

## **Lord’s Prayer--The Fifth Petition**

*And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

**What does this mean?** We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for Daily Devotions</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sun., Oct. 20	<b>Epistle Lesson, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity—John 4:46-54</b>	Genesis 1:1-2:3
Mon., Oct. 21	He has put all things under his feet—Ephesians 1:15-23	Micah 6:1-9
Tues., Oct. 22	We were dead through our trespasses—Ephesians 2:1-18	Isaiah 58:1-14
Wed, Oct. 23	You have heard about Christ and were taught in Him.—Ephesians 4:17-21	Isaiah 59:1-21
Thurs, Oct. 24	Be kind to one another—Ephesians 4:29-32	Jeremiah 31:1-22
Fri., Oct. 25	Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord—Ephesians 5:10-14	Jeremiah 31:23-40
Sat., Oct. 26	Christ is the Head of the Church—Ephesians 5:22-23	Isaiah 48:1-22
Sun., Oct. 27	Gospel Lesson, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 18:21-35	Micah 6:6-8

## **Pray the Collect for Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity:**

O Lord, keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; 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*

### *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee*

*LSB 607*

1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
In trial and tribulation;  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,  
Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?

2 Thy love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.

3 Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
Text: Public domain

That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.

4 And though it tarry through the night  
And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.  
Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.

5 Though great our sins, yet greater still  
Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will  
Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

*Looking forward to 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

*October 27, 2024*

**HYMNS: 596, 948, 566, 655, 744, 770, 387, 819, 656**

**Micah 6:6-8**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

**Matthew 18:21-35**