

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Jesus Receives Sinners

Micah 7:18–20; 1 Peter 5:6–11; Luke 15

“This Man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees’ statement of judgment against Jesus is in fact a proclamation of Gospel truth. For our God is one who delights in mercy, who casts all our sins into the depths of the sea through the cross (Micah 7:18–



20). **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”** (1 Timothy 1:15). Those who refuse to be counted as sinners also refuse Jesus who came only for sinners. Those like the older son (Luke 15:11–32), who think they are righteous of themselves, will not join in the Heavenly celebration over the sinner who repents, and so remain outside of the Father’s

house. Let us therefore be on guard against self-righteously trusting in our own merits. **“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you”** (1 Peter 5:6). Rejoice that Jesus receives sinners like us and that He still sits at table with us in the Holy Supper, bestowing His forgiveness and life.

✠ THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY ✠

INVOCATION *(make the sign of the holy cross and say)*

In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the † life everlasting.

PSALMODY *(sing or read out loud each day)*

Psalm 103

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Song of Solomon 6:13-7:9	Judges 9	Jeremiah 25:1-14	Hebrews 8:1-9:10
Monday: Song of Solomon 7:10-13	Judges 10:1-11:3	Jeremiah 25:15-38	Hebrews 9:11-10:18
Tuesday: Song of Solomon 8:1-7	Judges 11:4-40	Jeremiah 26	Hebrews 10:19-39
Wednesday: Song of Solomon 8:8-14	Judges 12	Jeremiah 27-28	Hebrews 11:1-12:2
Thursday: Psalm 1	Judges 13	Jeremiah 29	Hebrews 12:3-29
Friday: Psalm 2	Judges 14	Jeremiah 30	Hebrews 13:1-19
Saturday: Psalm 3	Judges 15	Jeremiah 31	Hebrews 13:20-25

PRAYERS

The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Monday: For faith to live in the promise of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God's Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ's holy gifts.

O God, the Protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but ✠ deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Morning

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.

Evening

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.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all.

Amen.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *The Fourth Sunday after Trinity*

Isaiah 58:6–12

Psalm 138

Romans 8:18–23

Luke 6:36–42

Hymn of the Day

O God, My Faithful God

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