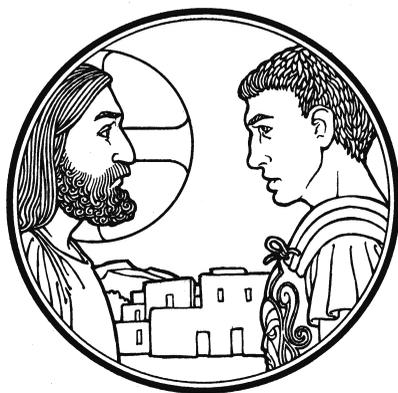


THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Jesus Came for Gentiles, Too

2 Kings 5:1–15b; Romans 12:16–21; Matthew 8:1–13

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God's saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, a Syrian



commander is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel (2 Kings 5:1–15b). Evil is overcome by good (Romans 12:16–21). So also in the New Testament, a Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord (Matthew 8:1–13).

All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus' Word of healing has authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion's faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation—not for Jew or Gentile—but only weeping and gnashing of teeth.

✠ THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ✠

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 110

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM: The Ten Commandments

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 57	Exodus 1:1-21	2 Chronicles 30	Acts 25-26
Monday:	Psalm 58	Exodus 1:22-2:22	2 Chronicles 31	Acts 27:1-28:15
Tuesday:	Psalm 59	Exodus 2:23-3:22	2 Chronicles 32	Acts 28:16-31
Wednesday:	Psalm 60	Exodus 4	2 Chronicles 33	Romans 1:1-17
Thursday:	Psalm 61	Exodus 5:1-6:9	2 Chronicles 34	Romans 1:18-32
Friday:	Psalm 62	Exodus 6:10-7:13	2 Chronicles 35:1-19	Romans 2:1-16
Saturday:	Psalm 63	Exodus 7:14-8:19	2 Chronicles 35:20-27	Romans 2:17-3:8

HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

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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.

Almighty and Everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your Majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9

Hymn of the Day

O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair

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