

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

## The Lord Lifts Up the Lowly

Genesis 4:1–15; 1 Corinthians 15:1–10; Luke 18:9–14

**“And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard”** (Genesis 4:1–15). Unlike Abel, Cain’s offering did not proceed from a heart that revered and trusted in the Lord. Thus, the lowly tax collector who prayed, **“God, be**



**merciful to me, a sinner!”** was the one who went down to his house justified before God, not the respectable, outwardly righteous Pharisee who trusted in himself and his own good living (Luke 18:9–14). **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of**

**God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”** (Ephesians 2:1–10). The one who penitently despairs of his own righteousness and relies completely on the atoning mercy of God in Christ is the one who is declared righteous. Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1–10). Therefore, **“everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”**

✠ THE ELEVENTH 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 50

## **LEARN BY HEART LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM:** The Sacrament of the Altar

*What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?*

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

*How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?*

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

## **DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Psalm 47	2 Samuel 7	Ezekiel 7	Luke 11:37-12:12
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 48	2 Samuel 8	Ezekiel 8	Luke 12:13-48
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 49	2 Samuel 9	Ezekiel 9	Luke 12:49-13:9
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 50	2 Samuel 10	Ezekiel 10:1-11:13	Luke 13:10-35
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 51	2 Samuel 11	Ezekiel 11:14-25	Luke 14
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 52	2 Samuel 12	Ezekiel 12	Luke 15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 53	2 Samuel 13	Ezekiel 13	Luke 16:1-17:10

**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, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*

Isaiah 29:17–24

Psalm 146

2 Corinthians 3:4–11

Mark 7:31–37

Hymn of the Day

*Praise the Almighty*

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