

# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

## Christ's Mercy Is Ours to Show to Others

Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 8:18–23; Luke 6:36–42

**“Be merciful, even as your Father also is merciful”** (Luke 6:36–42). The old Adam in us wants to condemn and seek vengeance. But the Lord says, **“Vengeance is Mine; I will repay”** (Romans 12:19). To condemn, to avenge yourself, is to put yourself in the place of God. It



is to fail to trust that He is just. Ultimately, it is to disbelieve that Jesus suffered the full vengeance for all wrongs. Only Christ is merciful as the Father is merciful. He is the one who overcame all evil with the good of His cross, forgiving even His executioners. Jesus is our Joseph, who comforts us with words of pardon and reconciliation (Genesis

50:15–21). He is the One who does not condemn but gives life that runs over. Only through faith in Christ are we sons of the Father—being merciful, forgiving, doing good to our enemies. For in Christ we know **“that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”** (Romans 8:8–13).

✠ THE FOURTH 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 138

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

*How can water do such great things?*

**Certainly not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God’s Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)**

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Psalm 11	Ruth 2	Jeremiah 39	Mark 10
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 12	Ruth 3	Jeremiah 40-41	Mark 11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 13	Ruth 4	Jeremiah 42-43	Mark 12
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 14	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11	Jeremiah 44-45	Mark 13
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 15	1 Samuel 2:12-36	Jeremiah 46-47	Mark 14
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 16	1 Samuel 3	Jeremiah 48	Mark 15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 17	1 Samuel 4	Jeremiah 49	Mark 16

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*O God, My Faithful God*

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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.

O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; 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 Fifth Sunday after Trinity*

1 Kings 19:11–21

Psalm 16

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

Luke 5:1–11

Hymn of the Day

*“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake*

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