

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

The Incarnation Secures Life, Forgiveness, and Healing

Genesis 28:10–17; Ephesians 4:22–28; Matthew 9:1–8

The Lord does not require us to ascend to Him. In mercy, He descends to us (Genesis 28:10–17). The ladder in Jacob’s dream was not for climbing. It was the means by which the Lord came to bless Jacob. This event finds its fulfillment in Christ who descended from His throne to save and bless us. By His incarnation He is the eternal bridge between



Heaven and earth. **“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”** (Matthew 9:1–8). The Lord was present in the flesh to absolve the paralytic. Jesus also healed and restored this man’s body. **“For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation”** (Luther’ Small Catechism). The Lord still has power on earth to forgive sins.

In Holy Absolution, He raises up the new man (Ephesians 4:22–28) and bestows the healing medicine which will bring about our resurrection on the Last Day. Thus we say with Jacob, **“This is none other than the House of God, and this is the Gate of Heaven!”** (Genesis 28:17).

✠ THE NINETEENTH 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)*

Psalms 84

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?* **Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.**
2. *How do you know this?* **From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.**
3. *Are you sorry for your sins?* **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**
4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?* **His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.**

DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Psalm 117	2 Kings 24:18-25:21	Isaiah 19-20	John 17
Monday: Psalm 118	2 Kings 25:22-30	Isaiah 21	John 18:1-27
Tuesday: Psalm 119:1-88	Job 1	Isaiah 22	John 18:28-19:16
Wednesday: Psalm 119:89-176	Job 2	Isaiah 23	John 19:17-42
Thursday: Psalm 120	Job 3	Isaiah 24	John 20
Friday: Psalm 121	Job 4-5	Isaiah 25	John 21
Saturday: Psalm 122	Job 6-7	Isaiah 26-27	1 John 1:1-2:6

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 Merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; 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 Twentieth Sunday after Trinity*

Isaiah 55:1–9

Psalm 27

Ephesians 5:15–21

Matthew 22:1–14

Hymn of the Day

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636