

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

The Son of Man Returns to Judge the Living and the Dead

Daniel 7:9–14; 2 Peter 3:3–14; Matthew 25:31–46

“Behold, with the clouds of Heaven there came One like a Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13). The Lord Jesus will return in glory on the Last Day with all His holy angels. “Before Him will be gathered all the nations . . . And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the



left” (Matthew 25:31–33). Those on His left will be cast into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For they rejected Christ by failing to receive and support His brethren, that is, the preachers of the Gospel. But those on His right will inherit the Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. For they received and supported His brethren and

believed what they preached. We believe in the promise of Christ’s coming, even if it appears delayed because of His longsuffering mercy. Conducting ourselves in godliness, knowing that this fallen creation will soon pass away, we look forward to “new Heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13).

✠ THE TWENTY-SIXTH 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: 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:

13. *Do you believe, then, that the true Body and Blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?* **Yes, I believe it.**
14. *What convinces you to believe this?* **The Word of Christ: Take, Eat, this is My Body; Drink of it, all of you, this is My Blood.**
15. *What should we do when we eat His Body and drink His Blood, and in this way receive His pledge?* **We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**
16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?* **First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and Man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.**

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 137	Job 25-26	Isaiah 46-47	Revelation 7:1-8:5
Monday:	Psalm 138	Job 27	Isaiah 48-49	Revelation 8:6-9:21
Tuesday:	Psalm 139	Job 28	Isaiah 50	Revelation 10
Wednesday:	Psalm 140	Job 29	Isaiah 51:1-52:12	Revelation 11
Thursday:	Psalm 141	Job 30	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Revelation 12
Friday:	Psalm 142	Job 31	Isaiah 54	Revelation 13
Saturday:	Psalm 143	Job 32	Isaiah 55	Revelation 14

HYMN OF THE WEEK

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

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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, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of the end of all things and the Day of Your just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; 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 Last Sunday of the Church Year*

Isaiah 65:17–25

Psalm 149

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:1–13

Hymn of the Day

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

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