

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Grace Alone

Daniel 9:2–10; 1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5; Matthew 20:1–16

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness. They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he



provided them (Matthew 20:1–16). They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. The Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve, but rather on the basis of His abounding, inexhaustible grace in Christ. Those who desire to be first—the ones who rely on their own merits—will be last: **“For they were**

overthrown in the wilderness.” But those who are last, who rely solely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock (1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5). He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed in order that we may be cleansed of our sin.

✠ SEPTUAGESIMA ✠

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 95

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

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Exodus 20:5–6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 71	Exodus 17	Ezra 7	Romans 8:1-17
Monday:	Psalm 72	Exodus 18	Ezra 8	Romans 8:18-39
Tuesday:	Psalm 73	Exodus 19	Ezra 9	Romans 9:1-29
Wednesday:	Psalm 74	Exodus 20:1-17	Ezra 10	Romans 9:30-10:21
Thursday:	Psalm 75	Exodus 20:18-21:11	Nehemiah 1	Romans 11
Friday:	Psalm 76	Exodus 21:12-22:15	Nehemiah 2	Romans 12
Saturday:	Psalm 77	Exodus 22:16-23:9	Nehemiah 3	Romans 13

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, graciously hear the prayers of Your people, that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your Name; 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: *Sexagesima*

Isaiah 55:10–13

Psalm 84

2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9

Luke 8:4–15

Hymn of the Day

Preach You the Word

LSB 586