

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Grace Alone

Exodus 17:1–7; 1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5; Matthew 20:1–16

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1–7). 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” (1 Corinthians 10:5). 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 Creed

The First Article—Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

What does this mean? (part 1)

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

DAILY READINGS

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday: | Psalm 78 | Exodus 23:10-33 | Nehemiah 4 | Romans 14 |
| Monday: | Psalm 79 | Exodus 24 | Nehemiah 5 | Romans 15:1-13 |
| Tuesday: | Psalm 80 | Exodus 25 | Nehemiah 6 | Romans 15:14-33 |
| Wednesday: | Psalm 81 | Exodus 26 | Nehemiah 7 | Romans 16 |
| Thursday: | Psalm 82 | Exodus 27:1-19 | Nehemiah 8 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 |
| Friday: | Psalm 83 | Exodus 27:20-28:43 | Nehemiah 9 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 |
| Saturday: | Psalm 84 | Exodus 29 | Nehemiah 10 | 1 Corinthians 2 |

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