

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

2nd Sunday After Trinity – June 21, 2020

The Grace and Mercy of God's Call to His People... The last reading that is below for this week is from Matthew 28:16-20, the Great Commission. Jesus sends His disciples into all the world to make disciples of all nations, through baptism in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and then teaching them to observe what He had commanded.

When we look at that with the gospel reading this week from Luke, we see the marvelous grace of God that keeps calling out to all people. God is the man giving the great banquet and His invitation extends out into "the highways and hedges" outside the city, suggesting the gentiles. This was certainly the focus of Paul's missionary journeys. Those journeys led to you, in this time, hearing the call to come to the great banquet through your baptism and teaching (catechesis). Catechesis, which by the way, continues until you depart this life to enter eternal glory. It is this continual catechesis that our heavenly Father uses to call us to Himself by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our sinful natures enjoy wondering. We rightly enjoy creation and all the gifts of God, but we too easily make them of greater importance than God, the giver of all good things. Our sin makes them idols that can separate us from God.

We fall into the trap of excuses vs coming to the banquet the Lord puts before us on Sunday morning. We may not need to go and see a field we have purchased or examine ten head of oxen, but we can easily fall into the trap of there being "something else" to do vs attending the banquet.

Thanks be to God that He is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love... but the words of vs 24 are words of caution "For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet." God will not be mocked. His invitation is one of grace, mercy and forgiveness. If that invitation is refused, rebuffed, turned away from and denied... it can result in one hardening their own heart and their refusal to partake of the banquet, that is salvation. Verse 24 is not a condemnation but rather an acknowledgement by God of those men's wishes. They wished not to come... they will not taste it.

The Devil is the master of excuses. "Go look at the field or oxen..." or, well you fill in the blank that you may be drawn to on Sunday morning. The longer the devil keeps any of us making excuses and away from God, His Word and Sacrament, making us believe it is something we can be excused from, the easier it becomes for our sinful nature to simply stay away risking the permeant excusing of oneself. You have heard the invitation! Come, taste and see that the Lord is good! Have your sins forgiven and receive the banquet of the Lord's Supper for forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of your faith. We, your pastors, are here for you, called to give to you God's gracious gifts. If at this time you are fearful... be not afraid, we will come to you!

Are you desiring the Lord's Supper? Times will continue to be set aside for individuals and families of our congregation to receive absolution and the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of their faith. Please, if in the coming weeks you choose to remain home, know we are here for you should you desire to receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord. A signup has been placed on our website and is available here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4eadac29a4fb6-home>.

Daily Prayer LSB pp 294-298 Pray and confess out loud **Daily Prayer – For Individuals and Families** as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Use the one appropriate for the time of day your devotion takes place. Include the Apostles Creed before The Lord’s Prayer if the setting you regularly use does not include it so as to confess it daily. Learn by heart the catechism, and hymn of the week.

Psalm 34:12–22; antiphon: v. 11 (*This is the psalm for the current week of the church year.*)

Prayer on the Psalm: Dear heavenly Father, blessed are those who hear Your Word and fear You, for they seek Your grace and righteousness. Move us to praise and worship You with joyful hearts because of Your Word, Jesus, that we might inherit life everlasting. Amen. (Lutheran Study Bible ESV)

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Morning | 88 | 89 | 91 | 92 | 95, 96 | 98, 100 | 101 |
| Evening | 87 | 90 | 93 | 94 | 97 | 99 | 102 |

Hymn of the Week: LSB 510 – A Multitude Comes from the East and the West

Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802-80; tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, adpt.

Tune: Swedish, 1694

The tune can be found on the web. Search “DER MANGE SKAL KOMME”

Readings for the week...

Sundays Lectionary Readings (each chapter could be reviewed) – Proverbs 9:1-10; Eph. 2:13-22 or 1 John 3:13-18; Luke 14:15-24

Readings for the week from Lutheran Catechism are as follows...

| Day | Bible Readings |
|------------|--|
| Monday | Matthew 27:1-26 – Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate |
| Tuesday | Matthew 27:27-44 – The King of the Jews is Mocked |
| Wednesday | Matthew 27:45-66 – Jesus’ Death and Burial |
| Thursday | Matthew 28:1-15 – The Resurrection of Our Lord According to St. Matthew |
| Friday | Matthew 28:16-20 – The Great Commission to Baptize and Teach the Nations |

Prayers:

Weekly Collect - O Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Daily Themes for Prayer:

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God’s Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and the despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly school, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival for those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Specific prayer request can now be found in the announcements that are emailed weekly to all members.

Looking forward to the 3rd Sunday after Trinity – June 28, 2020

Hymns Next Week 915, 608, 629 – 594 – 611, 922

Texts: Micah 7:18-20; 1 Timothy 1:12-17 or 1 Peter 5:6-11; Luke 15:1-31