**The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer**A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 15 through September 21

 **1 Invocation** *make the sign of the cross and say…*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

 **2** **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 sits 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. Amen .

 **3** **The Lord’s Prayer**

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. Amen.

 **4** **Morning or Evening Prayer**

*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. Amen.

*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. Amen.

 **5 Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks**

*Blessing before meal*

“The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” (Ps. 145: 15–16)

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Returning Thanks after meal*

“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” (Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

 **6 Pray the Psalms**

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| GeneralWk 2 | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Morning | 19, 150 | 135, 145 | 123, 146 | 15; 147:1-12 | 116, 147:13-21 | 130, 148 | 56, 149 |
| Evening | 81, 113 | 97, 112 | 30, 86 | 48, 4 | 80, 27 | 32, 139 | 100, 63 |

 **7 Verse of the Week: Mark 9:23b**

Alleluia. All things are possible for one who believes. Alleluia.

 **8 Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Sunday** Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6; Revelation 14:1-7, 13; Matthew 5:13-20

**Monday** Job 32:1-10, 19--33:1, 19-28; Acts 13:44-52; John 10:19-30

**Tuesday** Job 29:1-20; Acts 14:1-18; John 10:31-42

**Wednesday** Job 29:1; 30:1-2, 16-31; Acts 14:19-28; John 11:1-16

**Thursday** Job 29:1; 31:1-23; Acts 15:1-11; John 11:17-29

**Friday** Job 29:1; 31:24-40; Acts 15:12-21; John 11:30-44

**Saturday** Job 38:1-17; Acts 15:22-35; John 11:45-54

 **9 The Collect for the Week**

**Sundays after Pentecost Proper 19** Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**10 Catechism Portion for the Week**

**Holy Communion the Fourth Question “Who receives this sacrament worthily?” –** Matthew’s Gospel, the 22nd chapter, records Jesus’ telling of the Parable of the Wedding Feast. Here we learn that many are invited to the king’s wedding feast. Unfortunately, some of those invited refused to come. And tragically, among those who accepted the invitation, one showed up without the proper wedding garment. From this we learn there is a wideness in God’s mercy, while at the same time we can only stand worthy before the King of kings clothed in the garments of our salvation. And the proper attire is nothing less than being clothed in Christ. And we are clothed in Christ when we believe in Him and His Word. The essential way to prepare for the Lord’s Supper is to believe Jesus’ promise that His body and blood are *given and shed for you* for the forgiveness of sins. As Christians, we confess that we are sinners who repent of their sins and believe His promise that He gave His life and shed His blood for their forgiveness.

**11 Portion of the Catechism and Luther’s Explanation**

**4 Who receives this sacrament worthily?**

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

**12 Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism**

**Prayer based on Holy Communion the Fourth Question “Who receives this sacrament worthily?” -** Lord Jesus Christ, You give Your body and blood under bread and wine that we may know with certainty that our sins are forgiven by Your atoning sacrifice on the cross. Grant us so to eat Your body and drink Your blood, trusting in Your words that we may receive what You declare - the forgiveness of sins - and so live in You even as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen [from Luther’s Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 337]

**13 Intercessory Prayer**

* Heather Roll (breast cancer)
* Kathy Schmitz (medical testing)
* Jenny Whitman (paralyzed from a fall)
* Bev Kuehn (regulating medicines and dealing with diabetes)
* Pat Webber (fall and fractured hip)
* Haley Hellerud (healing of lesions on the brain)

**14 Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday’s Lessons**

**825 Rise, Shine, You People:** *stnz 1* Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered Our human story; God in Him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded. *stnz 2* See how He sends the pow’rs of evil reeling; He brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, Now are forgiven. *stnz 3* Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling, Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story Of Jesus’ glory. *stnz 4* Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev’ry nation His new creation. Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt. Text: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130404864

**For September 22, 2024,** Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 20): **Jeremiah 11:18-20** I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.; **Psalm 54** “God is my helper.”; **James 3:13—4:10** A friend of the world becomes as enemy of God.; **Mark 9:30-37** If anyone wants to be first he must be the very last.