



TOGETHER **We Pray**

90 Days of Prayer in the
Kansas District

September 1 – November 29, 2020

"Call upon me in the day of trouble ..." (Ps. 50:15)

The prayers for “Together We Pray” were produced by the district president, vice-presidents (or their designees) and circuit visitors of the LCMS Kansas District to encourage the body of Christ in Kansas and elsewhere during the coronavirus pandemic. We thank our contributors, including Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss and Rev. Joel Schultz, who compiled the Scripture verses and coordinated the content of this publication.

Note: Each daily prayer includes corresponding details from the **historic (one-year) lectionary** (in red) and the **three-year lectionary** (in purple).

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August 2020

To the Saints of the Kansas District,

Last spring, our life together in Christ suffered a major disruption due to the coronavirus. Many congregations moved services and other activities entirely online under “Safer at Home” orders, while other churches opted for outdoor venues and tiny attendance caps. Our schools became virtual, as well.

We’ve made some progress since then, but we’re not out of the woods yet. Social distancing remains in force, preventing us from being together in ways we once took for granted. We continue to struggle not only with isolation but with unemployment, civil tensions, uncertainty, and fear.

But we have reason to hope. As Paul writes in Romans 8:38-39, “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Our good and gracious God has promised to help us, saying, “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

Calling for God’s help is something we can do TOGETHER. As our fight against the pandemic continues, I invite you to join your fellow believers in your own congregation and throughout Kansas and beyond in our 90-day prayer campaign, “Together We Pray.”

We’ll be praying from September 1 – November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. Take a minute or two each day to pray the prayers in this booklet and reflect on the corresponding verses. You can find a digital copy of the prayers on our website, kslcms.org. You can also find daily shareable verses and prayers on our Facebook page (@kslcms.org).

We hope these shared prayers will edify, strengthen and encourage the body of Christ here in Kansas as well as others who need God’s wisdom and encouragement in these challenging times.

Be strong, Church!

In the service of Christ,

Rev. Justin Panzer
President, LCMS Kansas District



SEPTEMBER

September 1

Tuesday of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay! — Psalm 70:5*

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 2

Wednesday of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth." — Jeremiah 15:19

O Lord, as You called Your prophet Jeremiah to return to You from his doubt and anxiety, so You call us. By the power of Your Spirit, fill our souls with a hunger and thirst for You. Draw us to You and to the cross, for therein we find forgiveness of sins and rest for our souls. May we look to You in all things. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

September 3

Thursday of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" — Matthew 16:24-26

Heavenly Father, we rejoice that through Christ's death and resurrection You have destroyed the power of death. Through our Baptism You call us daily to die to sin and to live a new baptismal life in You. As we live in the certain hope of eternal life through faith in Christ, help us to take up our cross and follow Jesus, even through the valley of the shadow of death. In His name we pray. Amen.

September 4

Friday of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see. — Isaiah 29:18*

O Lord, You declared as You began Your public ministry that “the kingdom of God is at hand,” and proclaimed that the deaf shall hear and the blind see as You healed the sick and proclaimed the Good News of God. By the power of Your Word, help us to receive the Good News, that Your kingdom may come among us also. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

September 5

Saturday of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.” — John 14:27*

Lord Jesus, when we find ourselves anxious and fearful, turn us to You. For in You there is the “peace that passes all understanding.” You have restored peace between us and God by Your death and resurrection on our behalf. May Your peace permeate our souls and our lives. We pray this in Your name. Amen.

September 6

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Give us this day our daily bread. — Matthew 6:11

Heavenly Father, You richly and daily supply me with daily bread—with all I need to support this body and life. Lead me to realize this and to receive my daily bread with thanksgiving, that in all things I may glorify Your lavish grace; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 7

Monday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” — Luke 10:23b-24

Heavenly Father, stir up within me the longing to see and taste and handle in the Sacrament of the Altar what prophets and kings of old desired to see: Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, in whose holy name I pray. Amen.

September 8

Tuesday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together,
as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day
drawing near. — Hebrews 10:24-25*

Heavenly Father, just as I am encouraged by the presence of my brothers and sisters in Christ when we gather around the holy Word and blessed Sacrament, grant that my presence in their midst may encourage them, as well; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

September 9

Wednesday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. — Philippians 1:8

Lord Jesus, by Your holy blood You have knit together Your people in a wonderful fellowship. Through Your Holy Spirit increase in me a sincere affection toward my fellow saints and coheirs of everlasting life; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 10

Thursday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name. — Psalm 86:11*

Almighty God, my heavenly Father, without Your help my labor is useless, and without Your light my search is in vain. Invigorate my study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, I may establish myself and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

September 11

Friday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me." — Matthew 18:5

Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

September 12

Saturday of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ... that
he might create in himself one new man in the place of the two, so making peace. — Ephesians 2:14-15*

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives, especially among those of the household of faith, may evidence the working Your Holy Spirit in the love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control shown to one another, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

September 13

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." — Luke 17:12-13

Heavenly Father, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have shown me infinite mercy, forgiving all my sins, giving me Your heaven for my hell, and Your life for my death. Grant that I, the beneficiary of such great mercy, may in turn be merciful to all; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

September 14

Holy Cross Day
Holy Cross Day

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. — Proverbs 3:5

Lord God, heavenly Father, with Your divine wisdom You have created the heavens and the earth and ordered all things in accordance with Your will. During this difficult time of pandemic, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may trust in You and Your wisdom rather than our own understanding. Keep far from us all fear and worry and help us trust in You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 15

Tuesday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. — Psalm 119:89

Lord God, heavenly Father, amidst the changes your people experience in this life due to trial and temptation, Your unchanging Word is firmly fixed in the heavens and has established all things from eternity. Help us, O Lord, to cling to the unchanging Word that You have revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 16

Wednesday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. — Galatians 5:22

Lord God, heavenly Father, we have not kept in step with Your Spirit. So often, we have fallen back into the works of the sinful flesh from which Your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us. Forgive us our trespasses, and send Your Holy Spirit, that we may live lives governed by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 17

Thursday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice before You and watch. — Psalm 5:3*

Lord God, heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit to enliven our faith, that in response to the steadfast love You have showed us in giving Your only Son to die for us we may offer sacrifices of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise before You for all that You do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 18

Friday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." — Luke 17:13

Lord God, heavenly Father, though sinners we come to worship before Your throne because You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You have come to us and poured out Your love for us in the person and work of Your Son. You call us through Word and Sacrament. You equip us for service in Your church. Use us, O Lord, to accomplish the purpose to which we have been called. This we ask in the blessed name of Jesus, our Lord and Master. Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. Amen.

September 19

Saturday of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. — Psalm 25:16-18

Eternal God, I am lonely and afflicted. I am burdened with the reality and consequence of my sin. My sin alienates me from You and Your great love. Forgive me, O Lord, and comfort me in my distress. In this time of social distance and isolation bring me closer to You. In the promise of salvation won for me on the cross I have assurance of Your eternal presence. Fill me with Your Spirit and lead me in Your righteous ways. I ask this in the name of Your Son, who comes to me in my distress and fills my loneliness with His unconditional love. Amen.

September 20

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is heaven." — Matthew 10:31-33

O God, our heavenly Father, we come before You fearful of the dysfunction in our world. We are beset by worldly cares. We wonder what we shall wear and what shall we eat. We are bombarded by voices in our world that fail to acknowledge You as Creator, and Your Son as Lord. Empower us by Your Spirit to confess Christ as Lord before others in our daily life. Fill us with Your eternal presence. Help us to stand confident in the truth that we are now and eternally in Your kingdom. In the name of Your beloved Son, Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

September 21

St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist
St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." — 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Almighty God, I am afflicted. I am pricked by thorns. I am frustrated. I am weak. I pray to You to heal my affliction. I hurt. I am frustrated by the weakness of my body. I am frustrated by the ongoing challenges I face. In my weakness and frustration, I fall at Your feet and trust that You will lift me up and fill me with Your strength. I am weak, but You are strong. May Your power be made perfect in my weakness. Equip me to serve Your Son who took my sin and suffering to the cross. Your Son suffered to sanctify my suffering. Fill me with the peace He gives. In His name. Amen.

September 22

Tuesday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. — Romans 13:1

Dear Father in heaven, You have blessed this world with order. To keep such order, You have also blessed this world with leaders in both Church and State. As You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, we, Your children, ask You to bless those who are placed in authority over us in the civil realm. Bless them also with Your mercy, grace, and Your steadfast love. Guide them to know and to do Your will in their lives. Forgive them when they fail; encourage them in their successes. All these things we ask in Your name, trusting Your will is done in the world as it is in heaven. In the name of Your Son and the world's one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 23

Wednesday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:6-7

Dear Father in heaven, with the world feeling more like we are on a rollercoaster rather than spinning normally, we ask for You to be near us. In times of uncertainty, You call Your children to Your house to receive from You the many and glorious gifts You have for us: forgiveness, strength in faith, and the promise of life eternal in heaven. Lord, for months we were ordered to stay away from Your house. Though we are now able to gather, there are some who continue to stay away from You. Whatever the reasons, none are greater than the blessings You have for all. Grant that all return to You, for You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. In the name of Your Son and the world's one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 24

Thursday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." — Matthew 6:33

Dear Father in heaven, we all have daily needs. Food, water, and rest are needed for maintaining the body. Spiritually, we also have needs, and these are needs only You can meet. Grant us all to seek first the kingdom of God here on earth within the fellowship of believers. Grant us all to seek first the blessing of being righteous in Your sight through faith in Your beloved Son. As we seek first these spiritual needs, we hear Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Bless us as we seek You and Your blessings now so that our souls are satisfied with the food only You can provide. In the name of Your Son and the world's one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 25

Friday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" — Matthew 6:27

Dear Lord Jesus, our anxieties seem to be as plentiful as the air we breathe. Whether we call it worry, concern, or fretfulness, all these grow to a mountainous state when we turn our thoughts to death. Through Your Holy Spirit stir up in us such faith to trust You when You say that our anxieties cannot do anyone good but instead bring only harm. You, Lord, have blessed this world with so much good and many wonderful gifts. Help us all to focus on those gifts, great and grand or small and sometimes forgotten. Above all, train our eyes on Jesus, who lived the perfect life we cannot and died the perfect death in our place. Through faith in Him, we need not worry, concern ourselves, or fret about life's end. Bless us with the knowledge that Jesus' death is our death, and His life is our eternal life. In the name of Your Son and the world's one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 26

Saturday of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

— Philippians 1:12-14

Lord, I confess that I have feared becoming ill through the present pandemic, to the point even of despair in Your gracious promises. Give to me the faith of Paul who, though afflicted by imprisonment, did not despise Your promises but proclaimed them, to Your glory and the salvation of many; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 27

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!” — Luke 12:27-28

Heavenly Father, if You care so much for the lilies of the field, how much more must You care for me! Stir up in me every confidence that at all times You do and will provide for all my needs of body and soul; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

September 28

Monday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. — Ezekiel 18:27-28

Lord, as by Your Law You drown my Old Adam, so, I pray You, by Your Gospel raise up in me a new man, righteous and pure before You forever, and possessing the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

September 29

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels
Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” — Revelation 12:10-11

Heavenly Father, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our great Michael, You have defeated our adversary, the devil. According to Your promise, give us the fruits of His victory in the Blessed Sacrament, where we gather with all the company of heaven to laud and magnify Your glorious name; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

September 30

Wednesday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. — Philippians 2:14-16

Heavenly Father, I confess that I am often annoyed with others and contentious. Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, that my words may be used not to tear down, but to build up all people, and especially those of the household of Christ; through the same, Jesus Christ. Amen.



OCTOBER

October 1

Thursday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. — Philippians 2:1-4

Lord Jesus Christ, You have established Your Church, a wondrous fellowship in which we receive not only Your love, but the love of those made our brothers and sisters in Your blood. Strengthen us all in this fellowship, and grant us always to dwell together in one mind, to do nothing out of ambition, conceit, or self-interest, but in humility and deference to act in the interests of our brothers and sisters in Christ; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

October 2

Friday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live. — Ezekiel 18:31-32

Almighty God, Your dear Son Jesus taught His disciples and us to repent, for the Kingdom is at hand. By Your Holy Spirit lead us to recognize the transgressions we have committed and to cast them aside by turning away from them in repentance, that through Your marvelous grace, You would make for us a new heart and a new spirit that would continually be informed by Your precious Word. Strengthen our faith in Christ so that this new spirit gladly proclaims Your merciful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

October 3

Saturday of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. — Romans 12:9-10

Father in heaven, You not only call us to love one another, but You have truly given to us Your eternal love by sending Your own Son to take on human flesh and live in this world to be our Savior. Lead us to recognize all

Your good gifts to us and to receive them with a thankful heart. Keep us from all things that are corrupted with evil and guide us to hold fast to every good gift which You have graciously given. As we have received Your love in Christ, lead us to serve our brothers and sisters in the faith with the good gifts that come from You. May we serve them in such a way that Jesus is honored in our outpouring of Your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

October 4

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. — Colossians 3:14-16

O God, You so graciously enable Your beloved people to gather in Your house to hear Your precious Word, to be fed with Your Holy Supper, and to be strengthened by all Your good gifts. Where there are disagreements and strife within our congregations, grant Your healing peace to Your people and unite us as One body, thankful that the Word of Christ dwells in us richly to teach us and to admonish us in all wisdom, that we may sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness to You, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 5

Monday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” — John 15:12-13

Lord Jesus Christ, You have not only shown us true sacrificial love, but You have truly given that sacrificial love to us by laying down Your life on the cross for the salvation of the world. Lead us to receive that love with a grateful heart that we might also serve our neighbors with the same greater love with which You loved us. As we see the needs of our neighbor, guide us in love to provide Your care with the loving actions You have prepared us to provide and to do so with thanksgiving to You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 6

Tuesday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 5:1-2

Almighty God, in this selfish and loveless world, enable us by Your Spirit and Word to live sacrificially as Your Son did, living in Your grace and loving those in need of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 7

Wednesday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."
— Deuteronomy 31:8

Almighty and merciful God, in this ever-changing world with its challenges, uncertainties and fears, remind us of, and comfort us with, Your constant presence found in Your precious Word and the gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 8

Thursday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. — 1 John 1:8-9

Most gracious Father, in this world of temptation and sin, send Your Holy Spirit to convict us of all our transgressions and lead us to repentance that we receive the forgiveness of our sins, having them washed away by the precious blood shed by Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 9

Friday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. — Psalm 1:1-2

Almighty God and Father, enable us by Your strength to forsake the evil that this world offers, instead walking in Your ways and delighting in the direction and grace of Your Word, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 10

Saturday of the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. — Psalm 95: 6-8a

Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd, You call to me through Your holy Word; be it far from me to harden my heart at Your invitation, but in repentance and awe before Your great mercy, to gather with Your flock to worship and bow down before You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

October 11

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:5b-7

Heavenly Father, although I have felt lonely and anxious, You promise that You are not a God who is far off, but near. You draw near to me in Your Word and come to me in Your Sacrament. You promise to hear my prayers. I beseech You, against my loneliness, bring the peace of Your presence, and despite my anxieties, guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

October 12

Monday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? — Psalm 118:6

Lord God, through Holy Baptism You have made Yourself my God and promised to be at my side. Calm my fears by Your abiding presence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 13

Tuesday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. — Matthew 11:28

Lord Jesus Christ, who bore the sins of the world, I am burdened by the stresses of life in this sin-filled world, especially in these fraught times, but You have invited me to come unto You and have promised me rest. Grant to me in Your blessed Word and Holy Sacrament a foretaste of Your Sabbath, and through them bear me to my eternal rest in You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

October 14

Wednesday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work — Titus 3:1

Gracious Lord, You have ordained good government and taught us in Your Word to obey it insofar as it does not go contrary to Your Word. We pray that as election time grows near You would grant unto us men and women of honesty and integrity to lead and serve who are filled with compassion and mercy for all people in our land. In Your holy name we pray, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 15

Thursday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

And another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." — Luke 14:20

Gracious God and Lord, though You graciously invite us to Your divine banquet in worship and feed us with the holy food of Word and Sacraments, so many utter excuses for not coming. I pray I may never be among them! Even so, grant that those of us who have returned be willing to show compassion and understanding instead of judgment and condemnation to our brothers and sisters who remain apart from the assembly. In Your holy name we pray, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 16

Friday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." — Matthew 5:6

Gracious Lord, You are our righteousness. Teach us, we pray, constantly to hunger and thirst for You and seek none other, for in You alone can we truly live, move and have our being. In Your holy name we pray, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 17

Saturday of the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. — Romans 14:7-9

Gracious Lord, You are Lord of both the living and the dead. Lead us, especially in these uncertain times, to live our lives in You. Enable us to comfort and lead those who have lost loved ones to death during this pandemic to the blessed hope of the resurrection, for that is the hope that will never disappoint us in life or death. In Your holy name we pray, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

October 18

St. Luke the Evangelist
St. Luke the Evangelist

*"For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home."
— Matthew 9:5-7*

O God, You sent Your only begotten Son in the flesh to be our Messiah. Give us faith to see Your Son as the One who cares for all our needs of body and soul, taking our sicknesses upon Himself that we may be cleansed, and taking our sins upon Himself to atone for them that we may be reconciled to You. Finally, on the Last Day, gather us restored and redeemed both in body and soul unto Yourself in Your eternal kingdom; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 19

Monday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:11-13

O God, You gave your Holy Spirit to Your apostles. Through the Spirit's guidance, the apostles learned to trust in You for all their bodily needs. By that same Spirit, remove our fears and enable us to trust in You in every circumstance of life, knowing that You, the God of all power, will strengthen us and keep us in the faith by that same power; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 20

Tuesday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light. — Psalm 36:9*

O God, You are the source of life for Your people. Grant that we, Your baptized, may continue in the light of Christ. Illumined by Your Spirit, grant that we discern that which is of highest worth in this life: Your gift of faith, Your Word, and Your holy Sacraments. Open our eyes to behold clearly Your everlasting love and mercy, which endures through all earthly hardships; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 21

Wednesday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." — Matthew 9:2

O God, in Your wisdom, You bestow the highest of all gifts, the forgiveness of sins. By Your Spirit cause us to see that when we seek gifts such as healing, not only do You heal our bodies, but You freely give the highest and most costly of gifts, the forgiveness of sins purchased by the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ. Give us a sincere desire to seek Jesus' Body and Blood to eat and drink for forgiveness and life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 22

Thursday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Heavenly Father, sometimes life is disheartening. There is so much bad news in the media, and my personal struggles are difficult and even overwhelming. I do not know what to think of it all. I am not sure I can handle all that is going on. I am tempted to become bitter, cynical, or frightened. When I turn to Your Word, I am reminded I am not the first of Your children to live through challenging times. You were with Joseph in Egypt when he was sold into slavery. You were with Daniel in the lion's den, and You were with Paul on every shipwreck. Lord,

please be with me as You were with them. I need the encouragement that only You can give through Jesus. Give me the courage of Daniel, the kindness of Joseph, and the perseverance of Paul. Remind me that You are by my side. You will never leave me nor forsake me. I know You are holding me in Your strong arms as a Good Shepherd embraces a young lamb. Never let me doubt your love. I am counting on You to provide for my every need. That is Your promise that I know and trust because of Jesus. In His name I pray. Amen.

October 23

Friday St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord

Friday St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

— Acts 2:42

Heavenly Father, sometimes I feel so all alone. Is there really anyone who understands what I am going through? I know You love me, and You are at work behind the scenes providing for me. One way You often help me is through the support and encouragement of my Christian friends and family. Remind me, Lord, that they are an important part of my life. Whenever I feel lonely, afraid, or uncertain, I do not need to go it alone. Arouse in me a more frequent desire to seek your wisdom and comfort through the mature Christians You have placed in my life. Lord, You remind me through the words of St. Paul that the Church is like my body (1 Cor. 12:12-27). It is made up of many parts. We all have diverse abilities, so it is essential that we work together to help each other and glorify Christ who is our head. No one can do it all alone, and it is a sin to try. Forgive me for such arrogance. Never let me be too proud to ask for help from others, and let me be available to help them when they need it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

October 24

Saturday of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Saturday of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Be renewed in the spirit of your minds. — Ephesians 4:23

O dearest Father, I acknowledge that You have created me to be Your own, and that my purpose and Your plan for my life are only found in honoring and serving You. But I am here to admit that I have often fallen short in living true to that purpose. I confess that although I try to cover it, the very heart of my being is often rocked by sin and by thoughts and deeds I have lived for myself. There are no simple words to calm my conscience and no actions on my behalf that calm the heart of hearts within me. If conscience were the only voice in my life I would be now and forever separated from You. But by Your invitation I come. By the waters of my Baptism into Christ You have assured me that my conscience is not the only voice in my life. Thus, today, at Your invitation I speak to You those things that trouble my spirit and heart. I confess to You today ... (pause here and meditate on those things that are known to only you and your God). Even from the depths, Lord, You cause me to remember the words spoken over me in my Baptism, "Your sins are forgiven." I hear the invitation of the Word this past Sunday, "Be renewed (made new, recreated) in the spirit of your minds" (Eph. 4:23). My spirit sings with all my heart, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me ... Restore to me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with Thy free Spirit." By the work of Your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, and His payment for my sin, even the most secret sins of my conscience are paid in full through His suffering and death on my behalf. Praise God! I am free to be Your own. My conscience is relieved and renewed. Along with Martin Luther I yell in the face of Satan's accusations, "I AM BAPTIZED!" May the life I live today, may the words which I speak to others today, reflect my new life in You. Grant that Your Spirit guide and direct my spirit today. Direct my day to follow the path that You would lead me on and allow both righteousness and holiness to be at the heart of all that I do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

October 25

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. — Ephesians 5:18-21

Dear Lord, I hear Your directive to be an imitator of Your love for me. I know what it means when St. Paul says, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” And when he says, “Be imitators of God, as Christ loved us.” I would love to be able to say that my thoughts and actions always imitated his description “at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light ... addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.” But I cringe when he directs me to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Even when I pray the prayer You taught us, I often pause when I say the words. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Submission is one of my downfalls, Lord. Not that I do not love You. I want to serve You with all my life, and I want to imitate the love that You have showered on me. But some of the people in my life make it so difficult. They seem to have little regard for my feelings. They take advantage of my willingness to turn the other cheek or to release them from their fault. Dearest Lord, I am praying first today for a change of my heart. I pray that You would work in me the realization that while I was still a sinner, You died for me. Remind me, Lord, that You loved me before I confessed my sin, that You had me in mind when You submitted Yourself and walked the way of the cross and suffered all, even death, for my sake. I will say it again, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me.” I pray that You allow me to experience again the joy of my salvation and in those times that I struggle that You would uphold me with Your Spirit. And then, Lord, point me toward those in my life who need to know that kind of love from me. Let my words and my actions “make melody to the Lord with my heart.” Today I am thinking specifically of ... (take the time to name them, one by one). Allow them to see in my actions not me, but the Christ who lives in me. Instill in me the joy of my salvation, which allows me to submit myself to You, and in doing so to submit to those who need to know what that looks like in day-to-day living. If the time is right, permit me also to speak to them words of peace. I pray that Your Spirit puts onto my tongue the appropriate words to convey Your love for them and Your invitation to know both peace and joy in their lives. All this I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

October 26

Monday of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Monday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. — 1 Corinthians 1:10

Blessed Jesus, You are Lord over all. By the power of Your Word You sustain and govern over all that You have created. Blessed Jesus, You are the Savior of nations; Your forgiveness extends to all. Blessed Jesus, You are husband to Your bride the Church. Through Your servant St. Paul, You have called us to walk in fellowship, united one to another so that Your name is not sullied. Bless us when we contend for the purity of Your Word. So very often, we do not contend for that which is wholesome. So very often, our fellowship is fractured by our pride and selfishness. Help us to see our errors and so repent of them. Help us to put away bitterness and contempt. Help us to forgive as You have forgiven us. Amen.

October 27

Tuesday of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

— Matthew 22:37-39

Blessed Jesus, motivated by love You created all things. Out of that great love You entered this world darkened by sin and lovelessness. Your love was revealed by Your compassion for us poor sinners. Your love was revealed by the many wonders, signs and miracles by which You fed many, healed many, and cast out evil. Your love was revealed by Your death upon the cross. We were not worthy of that love—of that death—yet Your love is greater than our sin. Now You ask us to love our neighbor. Forgive us when we do not. You revealed Your love in works of compassion, but we often harbor contempt. Forgive us. Help us to see that we do not stand alone bathed in Your love under the cross. Help us to see all our neighbors under the cross—for You have died once for all. Into my heart, soul and mind You have poured Your grace, peace and mercy. Help me so that I do not bottle it up as though it is meant only for me. Help me to pour out that love to the kind and polite and to the crass and the crude so that all may know You to be the Prince of Peace. Amen.

October 28

Wednesday Sts. Simon and Jude the Apostles
Wednesday Sts. Simon and Jude the Apostles

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to him; for he is your life and length of days." — Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

God of heaven and earth, as I look back over my days I see many decisions that were poorly made. I look back and see many embarrassing moments. Some say that they have no regrets. Do they really mean to say there is no sin? Do they really mean to say that every choice was rightly made? I look back and thank You for Your great compassion and mercy. Where I have acted and chosen unwisely You have forgiven me. Although I remember—Father, You have promised for the sake of Your Son, my Savior, not to remember. What great comfort Your choice gives. Now I know that tomorrow You will forgive my poor decisions and choices. Now I know that tomorrow You will bless those decisions and choices made in accord with Your holy Word and will. Therefore grant to me wisdom and understanding so that I may choose and decide from a heart and mind made confident by Your Word of grace. Amen.

October 29

Thursday of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* — Psalm 90:1-2

O God of heaven and earth, by Your Word and will the seasons change so that spring always follows winter. Such changes do not scare me because I know that You are God from everlasting to everlasting with all power and authority. Yet I must admit that fear settles over me, because things I have not experienced before are coming my way. Forgive me. Strengthen me in heart and mind to believe and know that there is no situation or

circumstance of life in this here and now that surprises You. Strengthen me in heart and mind to believe and know that You have seen all things and that You are able to orchestrate them all to serve Your purpose. Forgive me my doubt. Help me to believe and be assured that even as You order the four seasons You are able to guide me through this change that has entered my life. In the name of Jesus, whom You sent to be my shepherd, guardian and friend. Amen.

October 30

Friday of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:6-8*

Heavenly Father, I have strayed from Your ways and sought my own. Through Your Word draw me back to You that, repenting of all my sins, I may fruitfully receive and hold fast the forgiveness of sins; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

October 31

Saturday Feast of the Reformation
Saturday Feast of the Reformation

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
— John 8:31-32

Blessed Jesus, apart from You and Your Word I am captive to sin, death, and the devil's power. Keep me firm and steadfast in Your saving and life-giving Word that I may know the truth and be set free, and bring me at last to everlasting life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.



**"A Christian without prayer is just as impossible
as a living person without a pulse."**

MARTIN LUTHER



NOVEMBER

November 1

Feast of All Saints
Feast of All Saints

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 5:3

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 2

Monday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Monday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. — Psalm 23:4

O Lord, our Shepherd, lead Your sheep in goodness and mercy as we pass with You through the valley of the shadow of death to Your eternal home, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 3

Tuesday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday of the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. — Ephesians 6:12-13

Lord God, heavenly Father, I walk in danger all the way. I am assaulted by sin, death, and the devil. By my own powers I am unable to overcome them. Through the comfort of Your Word and Sacrament dress me in Your armor, that I may in confidence in Your mercy stand firm, and finally obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

November 4

Wednesday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday of the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

*"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."* — Revelation 7:16-17

Merciful and gracious Lord, You cause Your Word to be proclaimed in every generation. Stir up our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that forsaking the cares and concerns of this life, we may receive this proclamation with humility and finally be exalted at the coming of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 5

Thursday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Thursday of the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
— 1 Peter 2:13-17

Heavenly Father, You have instituted all authority for my good—for my protection from evil and for the encouragement of what is good and right. By Your Holy Spirit kindle in me a desire to honor all authorities, that in freedom from the Law's curse I may lead a life according to it to Your glory and the welfare of my neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

November 6

Friday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Friday of the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
— Hebrews 10:22-25

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have despised Your holy Word and the gathering of Your people, but You have cleansed me through my Baptism and sprinkled me clean from an evil conscience. I therefore pray You, kindle in me a sincere desire for Your Word and the congregation of Your saints, that through them we may find mutual encouragement as the Day of Your Son's reappearing draws near; through the same, Jesus Christ. Amen.

November 7

Saturday of the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
Saturday of the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Stand, therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. — Ephesians 6:14-15

Gracious Lord, through Jesus Christ You have supplied all we need for our eternal salvation. In Holy Baptism, You gave us the gift of the Gospel that we might be protected from the spiritual forces of evil. In the Holy Supper, You strengthen our faith that we might stand against the schemes of the devil. By these, grant us peace in the midst of difficult days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 8

Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. — 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

O Lord, in uncertain times You give us Your certain Word of hope. By Your Holy Spirit, remind us of the riches You have planned for us on the day when Christ returns and we are gathered into Your eternal realms, that we would not fear during times of peril, but trust all the more in Your Son's saving power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 9

Monday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Monday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. — John 20:31

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to overcome sin and death by His crucifixion and resurrection. Turn our hearts to Your sure Word, that we would daily be strengthened in our faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 10

Tuesday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Tuesday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. — Psalm 145:15-17

Dear God, You indeed open Your hand, but the sin of this world causes many not receive their food in due season. Where there is plenty, give us thankful hearts. Where there is want, move Your people to use their gifts to alleviate suffering, hunger, and starvation, that all would receive their daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 11

Wednesday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Wednesday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit, that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 12

Thursday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Thursday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan ... And [Jesus] said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." — Luke 17:15-16, 19

Lord Jesus, as the thankful Samaritan sought You out where You may be found, grant that I, too, may seek and find You where You have promised to be, in Your holy Word and blessed Sacrament; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

November 13

Friday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Friday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. — Romans 1:11-12

Almighty God, You have bound us together in a common life. Help us to find joy and encouragement in one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 14

Saturday of the Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Saturday of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. — 1 John 1:3

Blessed Holy Spirit, You have drawn me into the fellowship of my Lord Jesus Christ and my heavenly Father and made me one with You and Your holy Church. Sustain me in that fellowship through Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments, that I may join with all the elect in praising You in the eternal realms; who live and reign with Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 15

Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. — Isaiah 30:21

Eternal Lord, You alone rule over the heavens and the earth and have established authorities on earth to rule in Your stead as we await Your coming in glory. Yet, O Lord, this earthly authority does not always follow Your Word and at times commands us to do things that are forbidden, and forbids us from doing things that are commanded. Guide our conscience, that we may speak when silence is not acceptable and be silent when the angry mob demands more. May we always make a defense for the hope that is within us with love and with decency that Your name may always be glorified in heaven and on earth. Amen.

November 16

Monday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Monday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. — 1 John 4:7-9

Lord God, heavenly Father, You knitted us each together, forming us in the womb and bringing us forth to life in this world. We are all created from the same fabric, yet we are all unique in Your eyes, and even in the eyes of one another. We pray that where there is division or difference in the body of Christ, particularly over the administration and care for the body of Christ, that You would always keep love in our hearts for all of Your children, especially with those whose opinions may differ. We pray that You would open before us the gates of righteousness, that together we may pass through them to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

November 17

Tuesday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Tuesday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. — Romans 14:19

Almighty God, You have called us to dwell together in unity. In these difficult days, where opinions are sharp and the situation grueling, help us remain kind and reasonable toward one another; that in all things, the work of Your Church may prosper, and that the world might know we are Christians by our love; in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

November 18

Wednesday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Wednesday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. — 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Merciful Lord, Your love surpasses all human understanding, as You even laid down Your own life on behalf of the crown of Your creation. In Your wisdom, You gave us the Second Table of the Law to guide us in our

relationship with our neighbor; be with us now, that we may love our neighbor, even as You have first loved us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

November 19

Thursday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. — Ephesians 5:8-10

Heavenly Father, You promise us in your Word that if anyone asks for wisdom, You will give it. Give me right judgment to make decisions that are pleasing to You. Let my decisions be consistent with Your Word. Let them bring honor and glory to Your Name. And let them be motivated by love for You and for my neighbor. Grant me patience and courage as You lead the way forward, step by step, providing all that I need to carry out the vocations You have given me. Keep me strong in Christian faith, always looking to You alone for strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 20

Friday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Friday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:6-7

Eternal God, from everlasting to everlasting You are God. We live in a world that is constantly changing, and we yearn for some sort of normalcy, whether we suffer under the effects of a pandemic or deal with unexpected changes that invade our life. You have declared to us that You are the Lord and that You change not. We pray that You will stand over our anxieties as we experience change and decay and lead us to Your peace today and all our days, that we may be kept secure by Your unchanging grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 21

Saturday of the Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year
Saturday of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. — Psalm 103:9-12

Gracious Father, You are slow to anger and always abounding in love; thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. Forgive us our sins and quick anger. Grant us Your Spirit of compassion. As we have freely received, may we freely give; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 22

Last Sunday of the Church Year
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you! Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice! — Psalm 141:1-2

O Lord, You invite Your people to lift up holy hands in prayer and assure us that You are ready to hear. We confess that we have been slow to call upon You as we spend time and energies on things that do not give lasting comfort. For the sake of Christ, who intercedes for us, grant us the mercy of forgiveness and renewal. By Your Spirit increase our faith to pursue pious habits that bring You glory and the well-being of our souls that we may dwell in peace and joy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 23

Monday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
— Isaiah 55:10-11*

Almighty God, by Your power and grace, You send Your Church with Your Word and Your Sacraments to the ends of the earth to carry out Your work of salvation. Stir up in us true faith which receives the forgiveness given in these gifts as the highest worship, trusting in Your steadfastness and faithfulness to fulfill Your purpose among us, and usher us at last into the Messianic banquet where we will dine at the eternal feast; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 24

Tuesday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Tuesday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit You?" — Matthew 25:37-39

Almighty God, You are ever present with Your people, loving, full of mercy, caring for their needs. Grant us, Your faithful people, to exhibit in our lives the mercy which You have extended to us in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 25

Wednesday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Wednesday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." — Isaiah 43:1

Almighty God, only in Your name is true security found, amidst the changes and uncertainties of life that tempt us to fear and despair. Graciously remind us each day of the promises of our Baptism, where we were cleansed of our sins, where the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, was placed upon us, and where we were called to be Your own possession. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us in the one true faith as we receive Your gifts of repentance

and forgiveness, serve our neighbor with gladness, and trust Your guiding into the joys of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 26

Thursday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." — John 16:33

Lord Jesus Christ, in bearing our sins You experienced the full shame of being sinned against. You experienced the fullness of the world's tribulations on our behalf, and You have overcome them through Your glorious resurrection. Have mercy on us when we reject Your unfailing love. Have mercy on us as we suffer from the frustration and bitterness of the tribulations this world inflicts upon us. Grant us peace as we trust in Your promises. Help us to dwell in forgiveness at the foot of Your cross so we might be released from everything that enslaves us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 27

Friday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Friday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." — John 19:10-11

Lord Jesus, to whom has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, keep this nation under Your care and bless all government leaders with a desire to serve for the good of the citizens, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to people around the world. Guide our leaders to serve faithfully by making wise decisions that will be pleasing to You. Guide all citizens to honor our leaders as they serve under Your authority, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 28

Saturday of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
Saturday of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." — Matthew 25:13

Eternal God, merciful Father, by His life, death, and resurrection, Your dear Son has all things to secure and assure us of the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal condemnation, and You have appointed Him as judge of the living and the dead. Guide us as we come to the end of another church year to be patient and vigilant in our waiting for the day of Christ's coming by faithfully gathering in the Lord's house to hear His Word. Strengthen us to overcome those things which would distract us from the public worship of our Lord, and strengthen us to await the day of His coming with a steadfast faith and a focus on the Kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

November 29

Ad te levavi
First Sunday of Advent

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. — Revelation 21:4

O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, we give thanks to You for the beautiful visions of heaven that You have revealed to us through St. John. Until the day when our dwelling place is with You in glory, grant that Your Son might abide with us graciously, feeding us with His Word and Sacraments for the forgiveness of our sins. For those who have fallen asleep in the sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we offer You our praise and thanks, asking that You would grant us our portion in light with all Your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

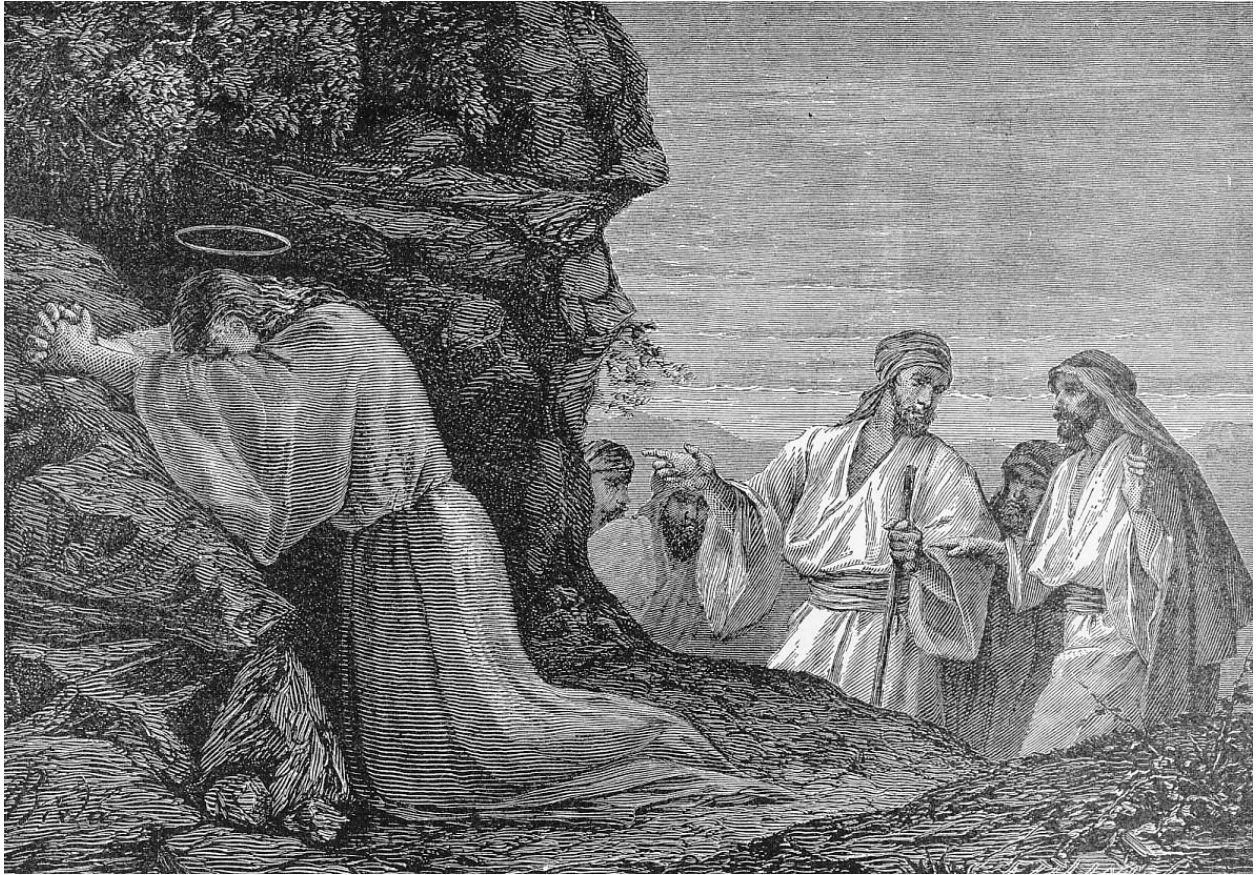
December 2020

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ.
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

A judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heaven to reign.

“The Advent of our King” (LSB 331), stanzas 1 and 4

**We wish you a blessed Advent season as we await
the coming of our Savior, the light of the world!**



Jesus in Prayer

Matt. 26:36-39

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as you will.**"

Graphic from *The Gospel Life of Jesus, with the Bidá Illustrations*, by Edward Eggleston (1874), provided free of charge by scholia.net. For more resources visit the scholia.net website.



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