
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16-22, 2016*

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: *The Word of God Doesn't Always Unite—It Also Divides.*

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Hebrews 4:12

G "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Morning	22	26,27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	23,24	25	28,29	31	34	36	38

PSALM PRAYER

L Heavenly Father, give to Your Church the unity of faith in Your Son. Preserve us in the purity of Christian truth, that we might share in an eternal fellowship with You and our brothers and sisters in the Christian confession, and give a bold and uncompromising witness to Christ before the world, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism*, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



THE CATECHISM

During the summer season, no catechetical study will take place. We will take up the 10 Commandments in a Sermon Series later this summer.

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

	Bible Stories for the Family		Through the Bible in Two Years
Tuesday	A question about the greatest commandment	Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 21:37	Hebrews 11
Wednesday	A question about the Messiah	Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37a; Luke 21:38; 20:41-44	Hebrews 12
Thursday	First Lesson for the 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Hebrews 13
Friday	Second Lesson for the 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Hebrews 12:1-13	James 1
Saturday	Gospel for the 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 12:49-53	James 2
Sunday	A public denunciation of the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees	Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:37b-40; Luke 20:45-47	James 3
Monday	A widow's two small coins	Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4	James 4

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

L Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*

- Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*
- Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Corey Meyer, Presley Kelley, and Laura Pasbrig, as they celebrate the anniversaries of their baptisms, that the Lord continue to reassure them of his promise made in Christ and that they continue to use the knowledge of their baptisms to live in peace and joy every day.

Dan & Laura Pasbrig, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week, that the Lord's love and

forgiveness continue to be shown through them to each other in their marriage and that he blesses them with another year of his mercy and grace.

Rick Reinsch and Monica Harp, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord continue to watch over them and that they thank him for the many blessings in years past and for many more in years to come.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

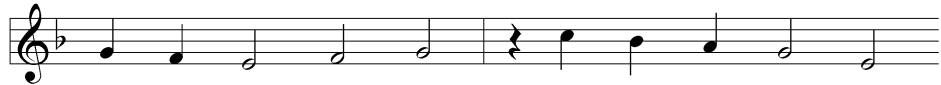
G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

² Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (✠), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"



1 When in the hour of ut - most need We know not
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may
 3 For you have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our
 5 So that with all our hearts we may To you our



where to look for aid, When days and nights of
 meet be - fore your throne; To you, O faith - ful
 cries in time of need Through him whose name a -
 woes be - fore you lay. Be with us in our
 glad thanks - giv - ing pay, Then walk o - be - dient



anx - ious thought Nor help nor coun - sel yet have brought,
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.
 an - guish still; Free us at last from ev - 'ry ill,
 to your Word And now and ev - er praise you, Lord.

Text: Paul Eber, 1511–69, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: WENN WIR IN HÖCHSTEN NÖTEN SEIN (LM) Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561.

Text: Paul Eber (1511-1569) ❖ Tune: Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561)

Life in this world contains constant trials and uncertainties. In these trials, there are times when we feel that there is no place for us to turn. In those times, we know we have a Savior and an Advocate, Jesus Christ, to whom we can turn for pardon from sin, rest from trials, and the comfort of an eternity in the paradise He has created for us.

The hymn, “When in the Hour of Utmost Need” was written by Paul Eber. Eber was born November 8, 1511, the son of a poor tailor. He was always a small, sickly child and because of his illnesses found books his constant companion. His father, made every sacrifice to be able to send Paul to a good grammar school, often saving money by only feeding his wife and son. Because of these sacrifices, Paul attended the grammar school in Nürnberg, and in 1523 left home to attend the Gymnasium in Ansbach. However, his illness forced him to return home. While on his return journey home he was thrown from the horse he was riding and was dragged for more than a mile. The injuries he sustained in this accident stayed with him the rest of his life.

By 1525 he was able to return to Nürnberg, this time attending the St. Lorenz school. In 1532, Paul was honored with a trip to Wittenberg to learn from Martin Luther. Luther was taken by Eber’s thoughtfulness and kind manners, and he was invited by Luther to meet Philipp Melanchthon. Melanchthon was also taken by the young man, especially his fine handwriting. Melanchthon was known for his poor penmanship and soon took in Eber to be his personal scribe.

After Eber graduated from Wittenberg in 1536, he became a tutor for the philosophy faculty at the University. He worked in that position until 1544 when he was appointed professor of Latin, a position later expanded to include physics and Old Testament. By 1557 his teaching load was again expanded when he began teaching Hebrew.

Eber was so engrossed in his work that he often neglected his personal life. To remedy this, Melanchthon chose a wife for Eber, whom he gladly married and lived happily with her for many years. However, one winter as he was journeying home from defending the Faith, he was caught in cold weather and fell very ill.

His wife unexpectedly died after his return home, and that sorrow eventually became too great to bear, and he died December 10, 1569.

The writing of "When in the Hour of Utmost Need" is uncertain. Eduard Koch, in his writing on German hymnals, records, "On Ascension Day 1547, after the battle of Mühlberg, the Wittenbergers, having received a message from the captive Elector to deliver their city to the Emperor Charles V, assembled for prayer in church." He then cites the prayer prayed by Johannes Bugenhagen, which greatly resembles Eber's hymn. However, there is no proof that the hymn had yet been written. Another anecdotal citation of this hymn comes from Christian Heinrich Sixt, the biographer of Paul Eber. He records that on March 30, 1552, three musicians in Neustadt-Brandenburg fell from the church balcony, but did not sustain any injuries from their fall. The hymn they had just finished playing was "When in the Hour of Utmost Need."

Eber based this hymn on the words of King Jehosaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:12, "O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." As the Moabites and the Ammonites advanced on Israel and all hope seemed lost, the people looked to God as their only defense. As all Israel sang together "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever" (Ps. 106:1), the Lord defeated all of the opposing forces. Just as He did for Israel, He did for you when, at Jesus' Crucifixion, sin, death, and the devil were defeated. For this tender mercy and loving-kindness, we "now and ever praise thee, Lord!"