

The Congregation at Prayer
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Pentecost 8
July 20-25, 2026

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 permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism.*

Invocation: In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Speak the Apostles' Creed.

Verse: Psalm 105:1 – “Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!”

Hymn of the Week: Lutheran Service Book #851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

Readings for the Week: [The readings for **Thursday-Saturday** are the Scriptures for this coming Sunday.]

Monday	Psalm 125	<i>What promises are given us here? How do we receive them? Is it hard or easy to trust in the Lord? (Or both!) Why?</i>
Tuesday	Proverbs 31:10–31	<i>Commemoration of St. Mary Magdalene (Wed). Can any wife live up to these words? How can the Church, the Bride of Christ, do so in her life?</i>
Wednesday	Mark 10:35–45	<i>Commemoration of St. James the Elder (Sat). What did James and John want? But what comes before glory? Why?</i>
Thursday	Deuteronomy 7:6–9	<i>What does it mean to be holy? How are the people holy? Why did the Lord choose Israel? Why did He choose you and holy you?</i>
Friday	Romans 8:28–39	<i>God is good, works good, and is faithful to His promises. So what can separate us from God's love? Why?</i>
Saturday	Matthew 13:44–52	<i>How is Jesus the man and the merchant in these parables? What did He do to buy (redeem) us? Why?</i>

The Catechism – The Lord's Prayer: The First Petition [part 2]: Hallowed by Thy name. *How is God's name kept holy?* God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Collect for the Week: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers: Please pray for . . .

- + yourself and for all in need (remembering especially those on our prayer list).
 - + God's blessing, wisdom, and guidance for our congregation's Board of Elders.
 - + the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Spain, for God's wisdom, blessing, guidance, and provision.
 - + God's blessing, guidance, wisdom, and strength for our synod president, Matthew Harrison.
- Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.*

Now joyfully go about your day (or to bed) in good cheer, child of God!

In our prayers this week, we remember:

Ava, Kyle, John and Billy (friends of Mike), **Scott** (Kathy's relative), **Christina** (friend of the congregation and former attender), **Tricia** (Mickey's neighbor), **Joel** (friend of the Johnsons), for continued healing and recovery.

Rachel, for wisdom, guidance, and faith.

For all with cancer, for Your strength, faith and hope, and endurance in their treatments: **Elizabeth Libby, Susan Kunkel, Fawn, Mary Ann, Britton and Tim** (John's cousins), **Katie** (friend of Whitney), **Jeremy** (Jacob's brother), **Anthony** (friend of Pastor), **Erika, Brad, Rita, and Pam** (relatives and friends of Mickey), **Linda** (Mickey's sister), and **Kristi, Jerry, Adriana, and Kristen** (friends of the Killians).

Melody, Amanda, Katrina (Anna's sister), **Susanna and Klara** (cousin and friend of Caroline) and their babies, for safe and healthy pregnancies and deliveries.

Joseph and Joanne, Mary Ann, Barbara (Laurie's mother), and all elderly and homebound.

Suress (friend of Elizabeth), in need of a kidney transplant; **David** (Marcus' father) for safety; and **Charlie** (Eric's friend), for health and peace.

Ava (friend of Grace Libby), **Leander, Melanie** (friend of Caroline), **Rene** (friend of Randy and TJ), **Jude and Tobias** (friends of Nancy), **Timothy** (friend of Marcus), **Kristoffer** (Lena's son), and **Jason** (friend of Elizabeth), for protection, peace, hope, strength, and faith.

Jonathan Malekzadeh, Lena, Greta (Lena's mother), **Jacque** (Mickey's sister), **Heidi** (Michael Vondal's fiancé), and **Nikki** (niece of Kathy) for strength and continued health.

Kim and Dan (friends of Ben) for their upcoming marriage.

The Vondal, Wing, Vigil, and Nus families for Your blessing, protection, strength, and faith.

Beth and Josh (friends of the Killians), **Sahilis** (Viviana's sister), **Scott** (friend of Scott Killian), **Thomas** (Angela's brother), **Traci** (friend of Elizabeth), **Dorothy and Mackenzie, and their families**, for unity, protection, peace, and faith.

Leslie, Dorris, and their children (from our Spanish Bible Study) for protection and faith, and for Your wisdom and guidance for the future.

Fatma (friend of our church), **Lindsey** (TJ's friend's daughter), **Suress, Huan, Joylyn, and Sandy** (friends of Elizabeth), and **Tamim and his family** (friends of the Malekzadeh family), for the gift of faith.

For our adopted missionaries: **Rev. Chris and Jenny Yang** (Taiwan), the **Wolf family** (Africa), **Rev. Rob Kieselowsky** (Philadelphia), and **Rev. Charles Ferry** (Eurasia), for blessing, provision, wisdom, and guidance.

For our seminary students: **Rowan Turner** (4th year), **Peter Ventimiglia** (2nd year), **Nathaniel Hall** (Keisers' son-in-law, on vicarage), **Erik Preus** (vicarage), and **Thomas Malmstrom** (4th year).

For our catechumens: **Greta Bowser, Caleb Bradley, Liana Johnson, Grace Libby, and Etta, William, and Eloise Spencer.**

For our college students: **Joanna Douthwaite, Erik Eidsmoe, Nathaniel Faunce, Ben Galloway, Vincent Heuyer, Anna Kautz, Henry Magee, Caleb Malekzadeh, Tristan Price, Timothy Strand, and Joshua Vigil.**

The people of Ukraine and Russia, for peace, protection, and an end to the war, and for God to provide for those separated and displaced, especially the children.

For those serving our country in the military: **Jacqueline Teixeira, Nathaniel Faunce, Juliana Wing, Zechariah Vigil, and John Boling and his son Daniel** (friends of Mickey).

Members and friends in prayer this week: **Joanna Douthwaite**

For all who have placed their hope and trust in the name of Your beloved Son, but especially for those Christians in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Sweden, Finland, the Sudan, and other countries, who endure serious and difficult persecution, even unto death.

For the Lord to bless **our mission church, Hope Lutheran Mission, in Purcellville, and our look into a possible Classical Lutheran School in central/western Fairfax County.**

+ + +

Remember to pray for our church officers, board members, and teachers:

President: Scott Killian
Vice President: Rob Douthwaite
Recording Secretary: Caroline Trundle
Treasurer: Logan Hansen
Financial Secretary: Dave Fields
Executive Board, Member-at-Large: John Schatz
Board of Elders: Jay Hertel (Chair), Scott Killian, Logan Hansen
Board of Evangelism and Outreach: Kathy Kielmeyer (Chair) and Nancy Nus
Church Technology Council: Michael O'Connor, Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, and Jonathan Malekzadeh
Building Committee: Rob Douthwaite, Jay Hertel, Kathy Kielmeyer, and Scott Killian
Investment Committee: Logan Hansen and Scott Killian
Commission on Mercy: Grace Killian and Caroline Trundle
Sunday School Teachers: Scott and Grace Killian
Pastor's Assistant: Grace Killian

About this Sunday: The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Service: Divine Service 4 (page 203)

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith

The good Seed, which is *"the Son of Man,"* Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in *"the sons of the kingdom"* (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets *"both grow together until the harvest"* (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is *"the King of Israel and his Redeemer"* (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, *"fear not, nor be afraid"* (Is. 44:8). For *"the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God"* (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, *"the Spirit helps us in our weakness"* (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, *"the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us"* (Rom. 8:18).



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This Week at Saint Athanasius / Hope Lutheran Mission

Monday-Friday	Morning Prayer on the Web, 7:00 am
Monday, July 20	Building Committee, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, July 22	Online Bible Study, 7:00 pm
Saturday, July 25	Youth Catechesis, 8:00 am
Sunday, July 26	<i>The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
	Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 am
	Divine Service, 10:15 am
	Hope Lutheran Mission Divine Service, 2:00 pm

Next week's hymns: 573, 851, 617, 548, 604, 822

Online Bible Study is back! Join us Wednesday at 7:00pm as we continue in Acts chapter 22.

Traveling this Summer? Don't forget to go to Church on Sunday wherever you are! If you need help finding a church where you will be, Pastor is happy to help. And please remember to bring back a bulletin with you! We get good ideas from other things churches are doing and how they do them. Thanks!

School Supplies: **THANK YOU** to all who donated school supplies for families in need in our area. Thank you for your generosity and always showing the love of Christ to others! If you brought any items with you today, please be sure to pass them off so we can get them all to ECHO. Thanks!

Adopt-a-Student: As some of our fellow Athanasians gear up for college, we invite you to participate as "adopters" for our college and seminary students (and those who attend here while in college!), to help and encourage them while they are away from home and attending school. We will have several students starting or continuing studies this fall and are in need of volunteers to sponsor one or more of them through the upcoming academic year. If you're interested, or for more information, please speak with Pastor, Grace Killian, or Caroline Trundle by **August 5.**

Bible Fun Day: All toddler through catechism-aged children, their parents, and volunteers are welcome to participate in a Bible Fun Day on **Friday, August 7.** We'll start the day at Riverbend Park and end at the home of Scott and Grace Killian. We hope you can join us for a day of fun, learning, and fellowship! Additional details coming soon. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please speak with Laurie Douthwaite or Grace Killian.

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken to inform and educate about things happening in our world today from a biblical perspective and worldview. Our congregation is a sponsor of this worldwide ministry. If you haven't listened, take some time to check it out – you won't regret it! You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider. Tune in this week for special live coverage of the LCMS Convention in Phoenix.

Life Thought: “Each of us amounts to more than assorted cells, isolated fluids, and random spasms. Human means—in every case—a character, with an emerging identity, disclosing a

history, developing toward an intended destiny. Every life is a story.” Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Opportunity for Service: Do you use social media a lot? We need folks to help us keep up, to post for our congregation, and to let folks know we’re here for them. Do you like doing this kind of thing? Talk with Pastor if you’d like to help in this way!

Opportunity for Study: Memento is a fraternity of men in our congregation (and throughout the LCMS) that study Scripture together and encourage and support one another in biblical discipline in an effort to be better fathers, husbands, and men. All men of the congregation (18 years of age or older) are welcome to join us. Speak to any member of the Board of Elders or Pastor for more information.



Create cards to bring some cheer to a cancer patient. Be one of “**Phil’s Friends!**” See Caroline Trundle for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Events

July 18-23	Synod Convention, Phoenix, AZ
August 7	Bible Fun Day
August 14-19	Pastor and family away
August 21	Activities Fair at Patrick Henry College
August 24-26	Pastor at Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees Meeting
October 4	Baby Shower for Melody and Logan Hansen
October 30	Assist Pregnancy Center Vision Banquet