

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 24 through September 30

[PART III]

The following articles treat matters which we may discuss with learned and sensible men, or even among ourselves. The pope and his court do not care much about these things; they are not concerned about matters of conscience but only about money, honor, and power.

I. SIN

¹ Here we must confess what St. Paul says in Rom. 5:12, namely, that sin had its origin in one man, Adam, through whose disobedience all men were made sinners and became subject to death and the devil. This is called original sin, or the root sin. ² The fruits of this sin are all the subsequent evil deeds which are forbidden in the Ten Commandments, such as unbelief, false belief, idolatry, being without the fear of God, presumption, despair, blindness—in short, ignorance or disregard of God—and then also lying, swearing by God’s name, failure to pray and call upon God, neglect of God’s Word, disobedience to parents, murder, unchastity, theft, deceit, etc. ³ This hereditary sin⁷ is so deep a corruption of nature that reason cannot understand it. It must be believed because of the revelation in the Scriptures (Ps. 51:5, Rom. 5:12ff., Exod. 33:20, Gen. 3:6ff.). What the scholastic theologians taught concerning this article is therefore nothing but error and stupidity, namely,

⁴ **1.** That after the fall of Adam the natural powers of man have remained whole and uncorrupted, and that man by nature possesses a right understanding and a good will, as the philosophers teach.⁸

⁵ **2.** Again, that man has a free will, either to do good and refrain from evil or to refrain from good and do evil.

⁶ **3.** Again, that man is able by his natural powers to observe and keep all the commandments of God.

⁷ **4.** Again, that man is able by his natural powers to love God above all things and his neighbor as himself.

⁸ **5.** Again, if man does what he can, God is certain to grant him his grace.

⁹ **6.** Again, when a man goes to the sacrament there is no need of a good intention to do what he ought, but it is enough that he does not have an evil intention to commit sin, for such is the goodness of man’s nature and such is the power of the sacrament.

¹⁰ **7.** That it cannot be proved from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit and his gifts are necessary for the performance of a good work.

¹¹ Such and many similar notions have resulted from misunderstanding and ignorance concerning sin and concerning Christ, our Saviour. They are thoroughly pagan doctrines, and we cannot tolerate them. If such teachings were true, Christ would have died in vain, for there would be no defect or sin in man for which he would have had to die, or else he would have died only for the body and not for the soul inasmuch as the soul would be sound and only the body would be subject to death. ~ The Smalcald Articles, Part III, Art. I:1-11

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.
Amen.

Psalm – 146

The Catechism – Daily Prayers – Returning Thanks (at mealtime)

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. *Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9-11* We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, September 24 – 1 Timothy 6:3-21

Monday, September 25 – Matthew 3:1-17

Tuesday, September 26 – Matthew 4:1-11

Wednesday, September 27 – Matthew 4:12-25

Thursday, September 28 – Matthew 5:1-20

Friday, September 29 – Matthew 5:21-48 (*Feast of St. Michael & All Angels; suggested add'l reading: Daniel 10:10-14, 12:1-3*)

Saturday, September 30 – Matthew 6:1-15 (*Commemoration of Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture*)

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod
The Rev. Matthew Harrison
The Atlantic District
The Rev. Derek Lecakes
Concordia Theological
Seminary, Ft. Wayne
The Rev. Lawrence Rast
Concordia Seminary, St.
Louis
The Rev. Dale Meyer
Concordia College – New
York
The Rev. John Nunes
The Concordia University
System
Lutheran Parochial Schools
Our Sister Churches
All Pastors, Missionaries,
and Church Workers
The United States of
America
President Donald Trump
Governor Andrew Cuomo
U.S. Military Personnel
All Fire, Police, and EMS
workers and volunteers
Louise Blydenburgh
Dianne Ferremi

Richard Meltsner
Madison Coffey
William Rossiter
Stacy Harris
Thelma Stegemann
Tom Conte
Marie Conte
Patrice Vitalino
Thelma DeJoseph
Al DeJoseph
David Bayley
Suzanne Weil
Pat Simmons
Ernie Getzelman
Jane Simmons
Andrew Brooks
Ike Edwards
James Stegemann
Marion Werth
Lorraine Keller
Larry Dimiceli
Aline Duval
John Kelly
Nancy Merrihue
Laura Smeallie
Frances Flanagan
Richard Duffy
Marge Glass
Bubby Verspoor
Irene Jones

Donald Duval
Charles Tichy
Lenny Kiesling
John Wevers
Peter DiMartini
Kendall Lillie
Julie Crawford
Susan Marotta
Eboni Marshall
Nancy Doughty
Felicia Burke
Alfred Miller
Larry Harris
Patti Fisher
Gina Blenk
Rich Frenz
Joan Carstens
Philip Tubiolo
Jayne McCarthy
Denny Wallart
Rich Lunigro
Barbara Reichling
Ann Harris
Lenny Hagesether
The Rev. Brian & Kristin
Noack
The Rev. Jimmy & Yasuyo
Coffey
Alexandria Rappe
Ann Inoue

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn for the Week – *What God Ordains Is Always Good*

LSB #760, st. 4

What God ordains is always good; He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm
Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know
Both joy and woe;
Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity:

Genesis 28:10-17

Ephesians 4:22-28

Matthew 9:1-8