

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25 through August 31

XI. ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DIVINE ELECTION

⁶³ But whenever something in the discussion on this subject soars too high and goes beyond these limits, we must with Paul place our finger to our lips and say, “Who are you, a man, to answer back to God?”

⁶⁴ The great apostle Paul shows us that we cannot and should not try to explore and explain everything in this article. After a lengthy discussion of this article on the basis of the revealed Word of God, as soon as he comes to the point where he shows how much of this mystery God has reserved for his own hidden wisdom, Paul immediately commands silence and cuts off further discussion with the following words: “O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord?”—that is, outside and beyond what he has revealed to us in his Word.

⁶⁵ We should accordingly consider God’s eternal election in Christ, and not outside of or apart from Christ. For according to St. Paul’s testimony we have been elected in Christ “before the foundation of the world was laid” (Eph. 1:4), as it is written, “He has loved us in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:6). This election is revealed from heaven through the proclaimed Word when the Father says, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Luke 3:22). And Christ says, “Come to me, all who are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). And of the Holy Spirit Christ says, “He will glorify me” (John 16:14) and recall everything to you that I have told you. ⁶⁶ Thus the entire holy Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, directs all men to Christ as to the book of life in whom they are to seek the Father’s eternal election. For the Father has decreed from eternity that whomever he would save he would save through Christ, as Christ himself says, “No one comes to the Father but by me” (John 14:6), and again, “I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved” (John 10:9). ⁶⁷ Christ, “the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father” (John 1:18), has proclaimed the Father’s will and thereby our eternal election to eternal life when he says, “The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mark 1:15); and again when he says, “This is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life” (John 6:40); and again, “God so loved the world,” etc. (John 3:16). ⁶⁸ The Father wills that all men should hear this proclamation and come to Christ, and according to his own word Christ will not turn them away, “Him who comes to me I will not cast out” (John 6:37). ⁶⁹ In order that we may come to Christ, the Holy Spirit creates true faith through the hearing of God’s Word, as the apostle testifies, “Faith comes from the hearing of God’s Word” (Rom. 10:17) when it is preached in sincerity and purity.

⁷⁰ Therefore no one who wants to be saved should burden and torture himself with thoughts concerning the secret counsel of God, if he has been elected and ordained to eternal life. With such thoughts the troublesome adversary is accustomed to tempt and vex pious hearts. On the contrary, they should listen to Christ, who is the “book of life” and of the eternal election of all God’s children to eternal life, and who testifies to all men without distinction that God wants all men who are laden and burdened with sin to come to him and find refreshment and be saved.

⁷¹ According to Christ’s teaching they are to desist from sin, repent, believe his promise, and trust in him completely and entirely. And since we are unable to do this by our own powers, the Holy Spirit wills to work such repentance and faith in us through the Word and the sacraments.

⁷² And in order that we may see it through and abide and persevere in it, we should implore God to give us his grace, of which he has assured us in holy Baptism, and not doubt that according to his promise he will give it to us. We have his word, “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:11–13). ~ FC, SD XI:63-72

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 – 14

The Catechism – The Ten Commandments: The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, August 25 – 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Monday, August 26 – 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Tuesday, August 27 – 2 Corinthians 5:1-21 (*Commemoration of Monica, Mother of Augustine*)

Wednesday, August 28 – 2 Corinthians 6:1-18 (*Commemoration of Augustine of Hippo, Pastor and Theologian*)

Thursday, August 29 – 2 Corinthians 7:1-16 (*Feast of The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist; suggested add'l reading: Mark 6:14-29*)

Friday, August 30 – 2 Corinthians 8:1-24

Saturday, August 31 – 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

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

Prayers

Let us pray...Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Lawrence Rast; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Joseph Biden; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Dan Bruno; Eugene Carlson; Cara Cavanagh; Lucy Decker; John Demonte; Dominic Dentisi; Ed Doepp; Janet Firmery; Robert Firmery; Carol Foth; Bob Franco; Scott & Morgan Graham; Patricia Greer; Bill Gunther; Peter Hamilton; Arthur Holden; Marilyn Jorg; Joyce Keller; Ben Leary; Dorothy Mistler; Douglas Pabst; Eileen Reiter; Alice Ryan; Ken Salamone; Peggy Salamone; Victor Santiago; Julia Schildt; Charlene Schneeberg; Bert Schneider; Judy Scott; Judy Smith; Stephanie Steenburg; Michael Stewart; Pat Suriano; Gertrude Sutorius; Ingrid Vessie; Jack Whitehouse

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Jose & Emma Camacho; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

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 – *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

LSB #603, st. 3

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia!

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

Looking ahead for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Ephesians 6:10-20

Mark 7:14-23