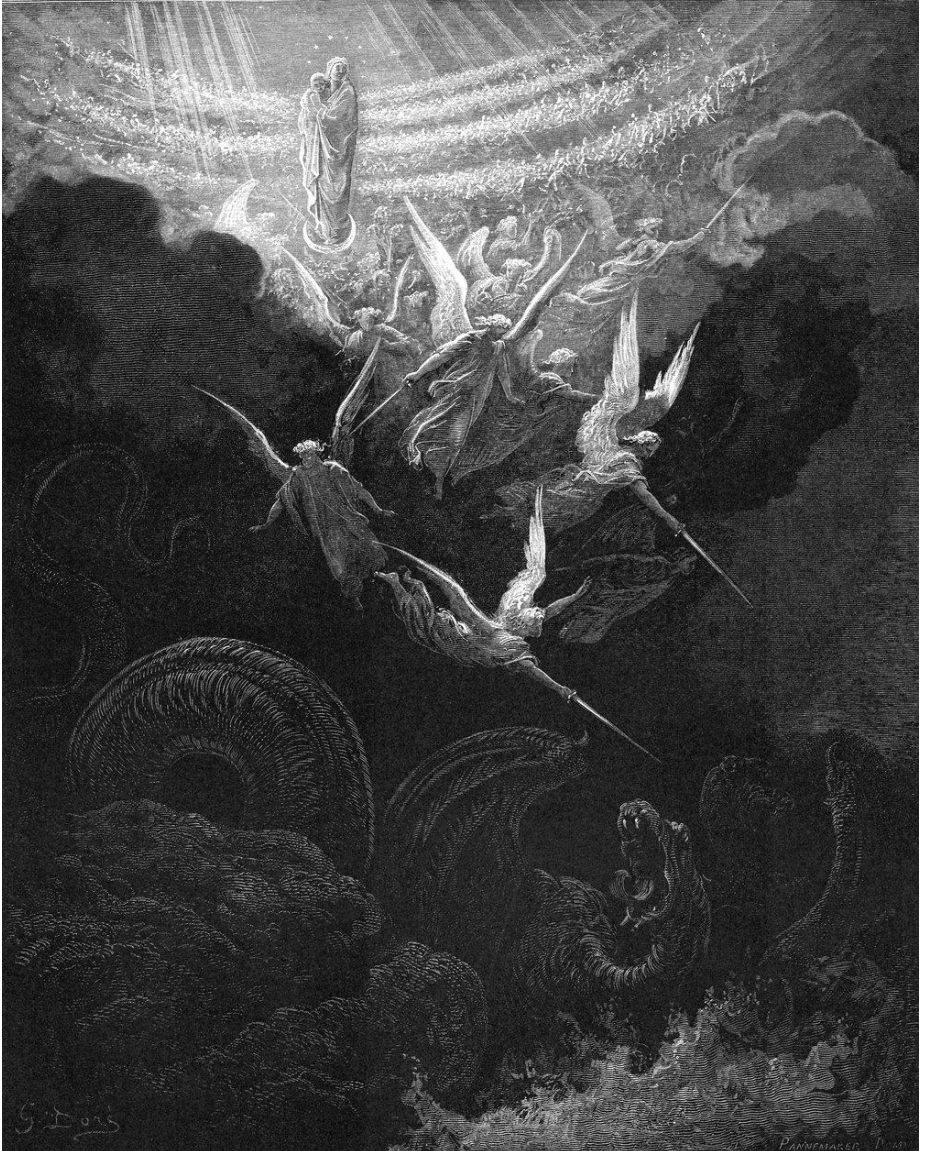




RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Basehor, Kansas - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Daily Devotions for the Home Trinity 15-19 (October) The Year of Our Lord 2025



**THIS DEVOTIONAL IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD, WHO
HEARS THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE AND DELIGHTS IN THEM.**

THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS MARKED BY PRAYER. ALONGSIDE ALMSGIVING AND FASTING IT IS ONE OF THE THREE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES COMMENDED TO US BY OUR LORD IN MATTHEW 6. PRAYER IS NOT A ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION. AS WE PRAY, WE SEE OUR LORD'S RESPONSE TO US IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. IT IS INDEED FITTING THEN THAT AS WE PRAY, WE WOULD ALSO HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD, MEDITATE UPON IT AND BE SHAPED BY IT. IT IS THE WORD OF GOD THAT SUSTAINS US IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATION, IT IS THE WORD OF GOD THAT IMPARTS LIFE IN THE MIDST OF DEATH, LIGHT IN DARKNESS, AND JOY IN SORROW. LET US CLING TO IT FERVENTLY, STUDY, READ, MARK, AND LEARN IT. IN SHORT LET US NOT DESPISE THE WORD OF GOD BUT GLADLY HEAR AND LEARN IT.

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES YOU WILL FIND SAMPLE DAILY PRAYERS ALONGSIDE A BRIEF DEVOTION AND SCRIPTURE READING FOR EACH DAY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PRACTICE OF DAILY PRAYER BECOMES A HABIT IN YOUR LIFE, IN YOUR FAMILY, AND THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION.

PAX DOMINI,
PASTOR BURGDORF

MORNING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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

Amen.

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice,

in the morning, I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Psalms 5

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

Psalms 71

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Psalms 51

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN OR PSALM

SCRIPTURE READING

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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger;

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.

Small Catechism Morning Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 103

Noon

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea.

Hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

Psalms 55

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

HYMN OR PSALM

SCRIPTURE READING

MEDITATION

KYRIE

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ,

have mercy upon us.

O Lord,

have mercy upon us.

Mark 10

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out
Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the
earth may look o You and see their salvation; for Your mercy's sake we pray.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us
according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all
error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 103

EVENING

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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

Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

To sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning.

Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN OR PSALM

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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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.

Small Catechism Evening Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

SEPTEMBER 28TH

The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matthew 23:11

The way of our Lord is the opposite of the way of this world. The world extols great and majestic things as deserving of honor and praise; it looks to power and might, size and grandeur. It is the embodiment of what they say in Texas, "bigger is always better". To our sinful flesh this makes sense. That which is visibly impressive, that which wields power and might in this world is truly something worth paying attention to.

But this is not how our Lord works. There is more than meets the eye in our Lord's kingdom. Where is the Lord's power and glory shown? It is in the cross, in dying and bleeding, in sacrifice. God, the one who is mightier than all, the one who is more majestic and glorious beyond description, the source and font of all beauty, desires to be seen and known through the gruesome and bloody work of Christ's passion.

And how do you receive this work and glory of Christ? It is not in some grand display of God's power. It is in the lowly form of bread and wine, in simple men preaching and proclaiming the Word of God. There in the Divine Service, there in the Sacrament of the Altar you are served by the Divine, the one who is truly great. There Christ serves you; the greatest becomes the servant and humbles Himself.

If you want to know what it is to be great, look no further than the service of Christ. Bigger is not always better, for Christ, the Lord of all, has seen fit to become our servant, to care for us, and to set aside glory.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

SEPTEMBER 29TH

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

Revelation 12:7-8

By the grace of God we do not see the warfare all around us. For all around us wages the cosmic battle of angels and demons. We are given glimpses into this fray but they are only that brief moments of lucidity. Elijah opens the eyes of his servant to see the hosts of angels defending them, St. John receives a vision of the casting down of Satan, Christ casts out demons who speak and rage against the kingdom of God. The spiritual is all around us, we cannot escape it. And it can be frightening to consider.

The world depicts the forces of hell as on equal footing with the angelic hosts. The demons of Satan prey upon mankind and there is no sure defense. But what is a demon but a fallen angel? They are created beings, their power is limited by God. It is good to be reminded that God has indeed provided a defense against the powers of hell. As the church celebrates the feast of St. Micheal and All Angels, we are reminded that God has ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Our God is the Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Armies! Armies that cast down Satan from heaven, and that Christ Himself leads against the demons.

**Though devils all the world should fill,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill:
they shall not overpow'r us.**

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 15

SEPTEMBER 30TH

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Phillipians 1:21

Our lives are not our own. We confess in the Small Catechism in the explanation of the first article of the creed:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

Likewise in the explanation of the second article of the creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ...purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil...that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness

What does this mean? It means that our lives are not our own. They belong to our Lord and Creator. It means He will take care of us; give us what is necessary and good. And that may be suffering, it may be health or it may be medical complications. But either way it is in the hand of our Lord. If we live, it is Christ, if we die, it is gain. Our salvation has been won, living or dying, suffering or prospering it makes little difference.

Our lives are not our own, they are Christ's. Even in the darkest of days, in the midst of suffering our lives are Christ's, they belong to His loving care. Even death cannot change this. Death does not take your life out of Christ's hand but brings you to Him to await eternal life in the resurrection.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 15

OCTOBER 1ST

***[Make supplication] for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel
Ephesians 6:19***

It is the work of the church to be at prayer. For this reason St. Paul commends the church in Ephesus to "make supplications on behalf of all the saints and even for him.

Have you ever driven by a church and heard the bells toll? Since the early days of the church she has always rung her bells as a call to prayer, to join your supplications with those around who hear the Lord's call and intercede on behalf of others.

But it is not just a command that the bells ring out, it is not mere law coercing prayer, but it should be a sweet comfort. When the bells of the Church ring, her work begins. Her prayers ascend before the Father that is in heaven and they are offered on your behalf. When you hear the bells of a church ring take heart, lift up you heads, the church is praying for you! She is bringing you before the Lord of Glory who has promised to hear the prayers of His servants.

Ask not for whom the bell tolls it tolls for thee.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 15

OCTOBER 2ND

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
Phillipians 3:8

All that you have will fade away. The way of this world is transitory. Even so, we cling to it. We esteem it was worthy of our adoration. We spend so much of our lives fighting and working for the things that are temporary. So much of our lives is spent on things that, in view of eternity, have little value.

Now, that is not to say that temporal things have no use. The scriptures are quite clear that what we do here and now matters, we are not like the Gnostics decrying the value of God's creation. But we must put it in the proper order.

The value of the fleeting world is because of eternity. It makes no sense to spend all our time and effort striving for things that will disappear all the while losing that which never fades. For this reason, Paul counts it all as loss, even calling them rubbish; not because the things of this world are pointless or evil, but precisely because compared to the glory of the things to come. Consider that the beauty of this world pales in comparison to the beauty of heaven. Consider the joys of this life are drops in an ocean of the joys of heaven. Join with Paul in counting the things of this world as loss so that you might not lose the things eternal.

Come to the Divine Service and have a foretaste of that eternal joy, of the feast without end as you commune with Christ your Lord.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 15

OCTOBER 3RD

***Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
Phillipians 4:1***

Love is the sum of every virtue for the Christian. St. Paul instructs us that:

[If I] understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Love is central to the Christian and to our life because God has revealed Himself to be love. Love persists even when faith and hope fade away at Christ's coming as the object of our faith and that which we hope for is given to us in the person of Christ.

Love does not fittingly come to pass if the faithful do not stand united as one. And this is because love, properly speaking, is not merely an emotion, it places upon those who are filled by it, demands and obligations. It gives us duties. We don't love our spouses by simply thinking fondly of them, but by caring for them, being united with them, placing their needs and desires above my own. Love of spouse is carried out in union of man and women in one flesh.

So, it is true of the Church and Christians. We cannot properly love God while in disunion with one another. Union is desirable, it is godly to agree in doctrine, to do as Paul says and stand firm. For love and union is not found in giving into falsehood but insisting upon the truth. It is found in teaching and bringing others into the fullness of truth, for God is truth.

If you want to love your neighbor, seek to unify him to the truth. Preach Christ to Him, stand firm in your faith.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 15

OCTOBER 4TH

***I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
Phillipians 4:13***

This might seem on the surface to be quite the boast of St. Paul. Is St. Paul really saying to the church that nothing will be withheld from him because he has Christ? Is he really suggesting that he can accomplish whatever he sets his mind to? Of course not, but what he is suggesting is of greater import for the Christian life.

We know there will be setbacks and failures. That sometimes we give in to our sins, to the desires of our flesh. But what Paul is saying is really that any accomplishments he has are all due to Christ. It is really a statement about original sin and the depths of his failure. He cannot claim any authority or glory in his works. Each and every good thing he does is attributed to God alone.

For God is the strength of the Christian. He is the source of all good in us. Nothing stems from our hearts and minds but wickedness and evil, but Christ delivers us from our own flesh. He bears our flesh in the incarnation and sanctifies us. He suffers and dies to sin once for all and by His resurrection He lives to God.

Into this you have been baptized. Into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. You have died to yourself, been made alive in Christ and now He lives in and through you. He gives you strength when He washed you in the water from His side, as He feeds you with His word, nourishes you by His very body and blood. You can do all things through Christ, who is your strength.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

OCTOBER 5TH

As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

Luke 7:12

See how Christ, who is true life, and death contend. Each has its own procession. Death going with a large crowd from the city led by a dead son upon a bier. Life comes to meet it with its own crowd led by the Only Begotten Son of the Father. And see how Life triumphs over death.

Look at what sorrow Satan has brought upon this widow, first taking her husband and now her only son. See how helpless she is amid her distress. Yet when the Lord saw her, He had compassion for her. Life cannot allow death to live; He cannot allow death to win the day.

Christ has compassion upon her, just as He has compassion upon us in our helpless state as sin rules over us and comes to us in His holy incarnation.

Now see what happens: He stops the procession, with a mere outstretched hand, and a few words and the dead now lives. Now the widow is given more joy than before, more than she has ever known. From her distress Christ pulls out joy.

The same is true for us today. As men standing in the stead and by the command of Christ stretch out their hands and pronounce forgiveness, we are made alive and brought out of death into life.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 6TH

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him.

Hebrews 7:1

Why does Abraham give a tithe to Melchizedek? Abraham is the father of the promise? The one from whom the Christ would be born, the one who is promised to be a blessing to all nations, shouldn't it go the other way? Who is this Melchizedek anyways?

Melchizedek has no lineage, no great heritage to make his case. He is simple the priest of God. So why does Abraham bless him? Because he is more like Christ than Abraham, even though Christ would be born of Abraham. Blessings are not according to lineage, rank or family, blessings are by Christ alone.

So the true children of Abraham are not of his blood, they are not of the seed of Abraham but relatives of Melchizedek. That is to say they are like Melchizedek, placing no trust or hope in mother or father but in Christ, who has no earthly father and declares that those who hear His word and keep it are His mother and sister and brother. As Melchizedek has no beginning or end, as Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, so also are those who are in Christ. Those who are in Christ shall live forever in Him who was before the ages, who always was and always will be.

Just as Melchizedek means "king of peace" so Christ is our Melchizedek who bestows peace through His gospel, and not through any earthly lineage.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 7TH

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

Hebrews 8:1-2

Christ as High Priest must take His seat in heaven and not on earth, for if He were seated on earth, He would not be a priest, since earthly priests offer gifts according to the law, according to the pattern shown to Moses on the mountain. Therefore, He has ascended on high and given gifts to men, according to that which is above the earth.

See, He gives gifts not only to God but to men. Now the Levitical priests did likewise, for they not only sacrificed, but sprinkled the blood of the sacrifices on the people, and the people also ate of the meat. Yet the earthly is a copy and shadow of the heavenly; therefore, the heavenly sacrifice which the Levitical sacrifices portrayed is greater, being offered on the cross with His own precious blood and then sprinkled and given to His people to eat and drink.

So He must sit not on earth but in heaven. So that, by His heavenly authority, He may send forth those who will give His gifts to men in His stead.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 8TH

***Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.
Hebrews 9:1-2***

What was the meaning of the first tabernacle under the first covenant? The things of the old covenant, were shadows of the things that are to come. The first tabernacle points us forward to the fullness of that which was to come. Christ is the fulfillment, of the tabernacle, He is the fulfillment of the tabernacle, for in the person of Christ God dwells eternally with man.

If Christ is the true tabernacle what then of the lampstand and table and bread? What but the word of God, a lamp unto the feet of Christians, the altar of Christ upon which God descends, and the bread of life given in the Holy Supper.

The Old Testament is not devoid of Christ but points us forward to Him. But now, we have the greater thing. We have the fullness of what was promised. Let us rejoice and take heart that we do not dwell amongst the shadows but in the light of truth.

As the Israelites gathered around the temple, and the shadows, so let us all the more gather and find our hope in the fullness of Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 9TH

For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. Hebrews 9:16

So it was that Christ said that He must suffer many things and be crucified. He did not say, He wants, or that it was an option among many options. No, it is necessary that Christ suffer and die for the salvation of mankind.

And it is by this suffering and dying alone that we are made heirs of the Christ our Testator. He has willed and given to us eternal riches, which are His by right. But an inheritance is of no use if it is not given.

And where does He give to us the treasures of heaven? Where else but in the Holy Supper, in the Divine Liturgy and in His Holy Word. He became flesh for us in order to redeem our flesh by the shedding of His blood. Christ was offered to bear the sins of many.

What are these treasures? Are they not life itself? Without Christ we are dead in our sins but in the blood of Christ is life. Not just life according to the flesh but eternal life, the very life of God is given for you. See how great is your inheritance given to you by Christ.

Let us be faithful in our attendance in the Divine Service, let us receive upon our lips the very sign of the testament, the very inheritance of God, the life of Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 10TH

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Hebrews 10:1

The body of Jesus was offered once for all. When we come to the Lord's supper we are not reoffering His body again but participating in that one eternal sacrifice. It is to this sacrifice that everything points. The entirety of the Old Testament is looking forward to this.

This sacrifice is not offered repeatedly, as the sacrifices of Old. No, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world does so once for all. The temple ran with the constant stream of sheep and bulls, so our sanctuary is covered and made righteous by the blood of Christ.

It is worth taking a moment of reflection and pause during the liturgy, or during the week. There on the altar is the sacrifice; there on the altar is Christ our Lord accomplishing what He set out to do; there on the altar is your salvation, your atonement, your guilt offering.

As you draw near to the Lord's altar, as you sing "O Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" do not do so lightly. Deeply wonder at what your Lord has done, come in awe and reverence of eternal life poured out from the veins of God that draws us near. Rejoice in the sacrifice of Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 16

OCTOBER 11TH

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. Hebrews 11:4

The author of Hebrews knows of Abel's faith by virtue of the fact that his sacrifice was accepted where Cain's was not. We can confidently say that Abel's sacrifice was more pleasing and more excellent than Cain's because of how it was offered, because it was accompanied by faith.

But what was the object of Abel's faith? God had given to him parents who preached to him. He had given to Adam and Eve the promise that the offspring of the women would crush the head of the serpent while having his own heel crushed, foretelling that there must indeed be an offering. If the serpent is to be crushed so must the foot of the offspring.

So it is that Abel's sacrifice is more fitting because faith demanded that there is death. The sacrificial offering of a Lamb is greater than an offering of grain. Blood poured out in faith is greater than grain offered from the sweat of man who is cursed under sin to bear forth bread through labor.

So it is that work will not suffice, but only sacrificial death. You may spend all your days striving for salvation and life, but without the shedding of blood there can be no hope, without the crucifixion of Christ we are condemned.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

OCTOBER 12TH

***For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and
he who humbles himself will be exalted.***

Luke 14:11

Read Luke 14:1-11 and consider the feast to which the faithful have been invited. They have been invited into the High Feast of heaven. And since this is the case it would make sense for them to sit in the lowest spaces, to come in with no thought of their own merit or value, so that when one comes more honorable than they, namely Christ, they will not be put to shame.

It is indeed shameful that men should parade about boasting of their own honor and merit, particularly in the presence of Christ who has done all things well! For it is He alone who is truly honorable and meritorious.

This was the error of the Pharisees. They saw themselves as more honorable and thought Christ less honorable than they. So when Christ heals the man of dropsy on the Sabbath they rebuke him and are indignant. By this healing He takes the place of honor that He alone can claim, Lord of the Sabbath. The laws of the Pharisees would have shamed them for doing good while Christ is glorified by it.

So be aware of your pride, which will bring shame in the presence of the Most High. Learn humility and a knowledge of unworthiness which receives the gracious gift of highest honor at the Feast of Christ. For in the Supper, sinners are given honor far above what they deserve, they are given the honor of Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 13TH

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." Hebrews 11:17-18

Abraham's willingness to offer his son was more than dedication to the will of God. It was not blind obedience to an empty command. Even the pagans do this, as they sacrificed their children, and even do today through abortion.

No, Abraham knew that God had promised that through this child, he would be a father to the multitudes. He knew that, despite his lack of understanding, Isaac is the seed by which his children would come.

He had learned this when he saw that Isaac was born according to the promise of God, despite Sarah being well beyond the years of childbirth. He saw that with God nothing is impossible; that faith must know God does not lie. So if this God tells him to sacrifice his son, He saw that with God nothing is impossible; that faith must know God does not lie. So if this God tells him to sacrifice his son, then God must also raise him from the dead.

In this "death" and resurrection of Isaac, we see the true Son of promise, who goes willingly into the jaws of death and pronounces his victory after three days.

Be watchful lest you subject God to your own wisdom and ways. Instead submit to the wisdom and will of God in faith. For He will preserve you according to His promise.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 14TH

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."
Hebrews 12:5-6

What is the chastening of the Lord? Consider first Christ and His chastening. What son is there whom a father does not chasten? Earthly fathers chasten their sons for their own sins, while God the Father chastens His Son on behalf of ours and the whole world.

His chastening is not borne out of sin or a lack of obedience but because of his obedience He willingly took upon Himself the mantle of Savior and sin-bearer. All the faithful, whose faith is founded upon Christ, are likewise chastened. Not for your own sins but for the sake of Christ.

We are to be confident that the troubles we are given are not due to our own errors, we are called to lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares. Be of good cheer your chastening is not for your sake but it is in the likeness of Christ's own chastening! So that your sonship might not be in question.

So we suffer, we suffer at the hands of wicked men who despise us for the truth of the Gospel, even as Christ suffered for the same. Not just in physical suffering or in the spilling of our blood, but even in our reputations and lives. For Christ suffers unto death, His chastening is greater than we can bear. But He also suffered as He was maligned and mocked by His enemies. Take heart dear Christian, your chastisement is for your good. God chastises those whom He loves.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 15TH

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares....Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 14:1-2;7

First we must consider brotherly love. Jesus calls His own disciples brothers only after His death and resurrection. Brotherly love is found in the apostolic brotherhood founded upon the death and resurrection of our Lord.

When a pastor is sent to a congregation he is a stranger to them. But some, have entertained strangers who turned out to be angels, a manifestation of the Triune God. Namely Sarah and Abraham who entertained the Lord at their tent.

But the pastor is also an angel, not a physical angel, but a messenger of the gospel. Angel simply means messenger of the Lord. I say this not to puff myself up, or any pastor who stands in the stead of Christ, but as a stark reminder to men who preach of what exactly their calling is. The words of the pastor must be in accord with the scriptures but likewise his life. For the writer of Hebrews contends that the Church should imitate him!

If the Church is to imitate her pastors, her pastors have an obligation to live according to the will of God, to present Christ not just by their words but in their deeds as well.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 16TH

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

The trials of faith oppress the faithful and test their faith. This is will of God. Through trial patience and steadfastness is produced so that you may be perfect.

How are you made perfect? In no other way than the work of Christ. What else can be called perfect but Him? So trials bring you to Christ. Patience and steadfastness and produced by Christ who sustains you in the midst of these things.

As the faithful suffer trials and temptations they learn internally the work of Christ, who was also persecuted and afflicted. Faith which experiences trial is perfected in being made like Christ. To know the sufferings of Christ is no light thing. It is not simply to know them in heart and mind, but in your own flesh, in the wounds of the faithful. To be conformed to Him and made like Him.

Now if this perfecting has not yet occurred let him ask God who gives wisdom, that is Christ freely. But do not expect it in an easy way but precisely through trial and tribulation. He gives it with a cross, the one who desires wisdom must also have confidence in the word of God. If he doubts God's faithfulness, he will be destroyed. Let us then learn when we are persecuted not to doubt, but firmly believe.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 17TH

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4

It is imperative that favoritism not be shown in the church. Favoritism in the church is as much a sin as adultery and murder. Indeed, if the faithful in the church are cast aside, then spiritual adultery against them is committed. For we are called to be faithful and united, showing now partiality amongst the brothers.

Who would contend it would be pleasing to love one of your children more than another? So it is with God's children. No favoritism or partiality is to be named among us, lest the less favored lose their faith as a result of our actions.

But let us not also confused a lack of partiality with a lack of distinction. For Paul also instructs us that the body is not all the same but made of different members requiring different things. Not all require the same, but all require care. You treat your arm different than your leg but do not favor it over the other. Each has its own purpose and needs.

Lest we need any other proof let us look to our Lord, who showing no partiality against the sinner, took up the cross gladly so that the greatest need might be met.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 17

OCTOBER 18TH

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:14-17

St. James makes it clear, faith must be genuine. Anything else is not faith at all. When James says faith without works is dead. He is not denying that faith alone justifies. Let us not be so quick as to cast him aside. But rather, that the works done in faith, which come naturally, are evidence of faith.

By this we might know true faith. By this hypocrisy might be exposed. For those who claim true faith and yet do no good are shown to be a liar, and without true faith. But there will be some who say, "You have faith but I have works", thinking that the outward works they do will suffice and take the place of faith.

James answers them by saying that true works are those which show faith. Good works cannot be done apart from faith! To have works without faith is to not have any truly good works!

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

OCTOBER 19TH

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 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. Matthew 22:36-38

There are two great commandments, and the greatest of these is to Love the Lord with all your heart soul and mind. But the second is also like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. That is to say, the love of neighbor is like the love of God. How can this be?

If loving your neighbor is like loving God, does this mean that our neighbor is like God? Afterall that is the only change; the object of the love. If we are to take Christ seriously, we must answer in the affirmative. Let us consider then our neighbor, who is our flesh and blood.

Is there a neighbor who is not only like God but even more so is God? To which we answer yes, Christ our Lord took upon Himself human flesh and became our neighbor. To love Christ is to love God and to love our neighbor.

All man is made in Christ's image and bears in their flesh remnants of this after the fall. How much more than for the faithful who are enjoined and made one flesh with Christ in the Holy Supper? Let us love one another for love of neighbor is like love of God.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

MONDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 20TH

***So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.
Matthew 22:36-38***

Unlike our modern age, we should confess that God creates our bodies and its members for particular purposes. To simply not use a member of our body for evil is not sufficient. We should use our bodies for the purposes that God has intended them.

Consider the tongue. It was created to be used for speech. And speech is truly a divine thing! In the beginning God spoke, before the world was the Word of God exists. It was God who spoke first and invites us to speak with and to Him.

But all have fallen and sinned. The tongue is a very poor likeness of Christ due to our sinful flesh. It is indeed that the tongue is perhaps the hardest of our members to control due to sin for it is emblematic of Christ Himself, the very Word of God.

Consider how much we need the Word of God to tame our tongue, to submit to the true Word instead of speaking all sorts of falsehoods. Since, by the mouth, by the tongue one confesses what they believe so our tongues must have the Word made Flesh upon them to be loosed and set free for righteousness.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

TUESDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 21ST

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

When St. James calls us an adulterous people he is speaking of the reality St. Paul alludes to in Ephesians. This mystery [marriage] is profound and it refers to Christ and the Church. For what is marriage but an image of Christ and the Church? Is not that the bases for marriage of man and women? Should we not strive to be "little Christs" to our wives, sacrificing all for them; and "little churches" submitting to our head in all things to our husbands?

Just as the greater thing is not earthly marriage but Christ, so the greater adultery is not of the flesh but a turning away from Christ, a spurning of the true groom and our true head.

If one turns from the worship of Christ he has spured the true groom. And so it is that idolatry is the most grave form of adultery. As husbands and wives are called to forsake all others so Christ forsakes all for us, and Church should cling to him at all time. We cannot worship God and the world.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

WEDNESDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 22ND

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
James 5:13-15

Here are instructions for the church and her pastors. She must be confident in the power of the Gospel, not thinking she needs to be bolstered by anything more than her confession of faith and the renunciation of the devil.

She must pray in this confidence knowing that even in suffering, in Christ all will be worked for her good. She must ever sing the Psalms and the Holy Liturgy (which consists of the Psalms). And, even on cheerful days be mindful of the unseen perils ever present from which her Lord constantly protects her.

She must desire the pastors of the church to visit her when sick or near death, so that she might receive mercy from their hands and words, so she might be anointed by them and be reminded of the promise of Holy Baptism.

The prayer of faith is the prayer of a righteous man, which is surely the prayer of Christ. This will indeed be rewarded and the sick will be saved. For the day of resurrection will bring them health of body and soul and the fullness of their joy in Christ.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

THURSDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 23RD

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives
1 Peter 3:1

The submission of wives to husbands is surely a likeness of the submission of the Church to Christ.

Consider Sarah: she called Abraham “lord” saying “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?” Now she said that as she laughed at the promise of God that she would bear a son. And truly she imperiled herself with her laughter. For the Lord is true, even if she mocks Him.

Yet, she was saved through childbearing, that is, she was saved from her sin, since she was faithfully submissive to the lordship of Abraham and conceived a child.

Abraham was surely in the stead of God, being a father of multitudes as his name signifies. So also, the church is saved from her sin, being submissive in faith to the lordship of Christ, in whom, like Abraham, one can see the Father.

So every wife and husband submit to the divine order in which Christ is the Head and Lord, without which no one can be saved.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

FRIDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 24RD

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 1 Peter 3:18-19

Christ was put to death in the flesh, he suffered in the flesh because He had taken upon Himself mortality that He might bring immortality to light through the Gospel. And, so that we might bear again the image of the heavenly Man.

How did He do this? By rising again from the dead, as St. Peter declares, saying He was made alive by the Spirit. That is to say He had the authority to lay down His life and by His own divine nature pick it up again. For Christ has raised Himself, He was not raised by another, like Lazarus before Him.

He who is the resurrection also pronounced judgment upon the spirits now in prison, that is, in hell, who were disobedient in the days of Noah.

Recall how Noah was mocked by all his enemies; consider him now, vindicated by Christ Himself, the greater Noah.

For Noah saved his family in the ark from the waters of the flood, so Christ has saved His family of faithful ones, through the ark of His Holy Church, through the waters of Holy Baptism, a life giving flood.

So shall Christ's return in glory vindicate all who are His own against those who have persisted in their enmity against them and against Him.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠

SATURDAY OF TRINITY 18

OCTOBER 25TH

***So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly
1 Peter 5:1-2***

Pastors will do well to remember the meaning of the word. Pastor means nothing other than Shepherd. Shepherds do not rule their flock with an iron fist, they do not lord their authority over them but use it to prosper and benefit them. In the same way, pastors of the flock of God are to do likewise.

For their lordship must be like Christ's own lordship, for they stand in His stead and by His command. Christ did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

So also, pastors who serve in the stead of Christ must ever serve their flock. They must wash them in Baptism, comfort them in their preaching, and feed them at the altar with the Holy Supper. Thus they shall be examples to the flock.

Examples of what? Examples of Christ the Chief Shepherd, who is at work behind all of His servants toil. For it is Christ who washes, Christ who feeds, and Christ who comforts through the hands of your pastors.

✠ In Jesus' name. Amen. ✠