

**Daily Devotions for Home and Family**  
*For the Week of The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
September 15 through September 21

**XI. ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DIVINE ELECTION**

<sup>87</sup> This teaching and explanation of the eternal and saving election of the elect children of God gives God his due honor fully and completely. It sets forth that he saves us “according to the purpose” of his will through sheer mercy in Christ without our merit and good works, as it is written, “He destined us in love to be his son through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, and to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:5, 6). <sup>88</sup> It is therefore false and wrong when men teach that the cause of our election is not only the mercy of God and the most holy merit of Christ, but that there is also within us a cause of God’s election on account of which God has elected us unto eternal life. For not only before we had done any good, but even before we were born (in fact, “before the foundation of the world was laid”)<sup>5</sup> God elected us in Christ—“in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call, she was told, ‘The elder will serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated’ ” (Rom. 9:11–13; Gen. 25:23; Mal. 1:2, 3). <sup>89</sup> Moreover, when people are taught to seek their eternal election in Christ and in his holy Gospel as the “book of life,” this doctrine never occasions either despondency or a riotous and dissolute life. This does not exclude any repentant sinner but invites and calls all poor, burdened, and heavy-laden sinners to repentance, to a knowledge of their sins, and to faith in Christ and promises them the Holy Spirit to cleanse and renew them. <sup>90</sup> This doctrine gives sorrowing and tempted people the permanently abiding comfort of knowing that their salvation does not rest in their own hands. If this were the case, they would lose it more readily than Adam and Eve did in paradise—yes, would be losing it every moment and hour. Their salvation rests in the gracious election of God, which he has revealed to us in Christ, out of whose hand “no one can pluck” us (John 10:28; 2 Tim. 2:19). <sup>91</sup> Hence if anyone so sets forth this teaching concerning God’s gracious election that sorrowing Christians can find no comfort in it but are driven to despair, or when impenitent sinners are strengthened in their malice, then it is clearly evident that this teaching is not being set forth according to the Word and will of God but according to reason and the suggestion of the wicked devil. <sup>92</sup> For the apostle testifies that “Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). But it is certain that any interpretation of the Scriptures which weakens or even removes this comfort and hope is contrary to the Holy Spirit’s will and intent.

<sup>93</sup> We shall abide by this simple, direct, and useful exposition which is permanently and well grounded in God’s revealed will, we shall avoid and flee all abstruse and specious questions and disputations, and we reject and condemn all those things which are contrary to these true, simple, and useful expositions.

<sup>94</sup> This will suffice concerning the controverted articles which have been disputed among theologians of the Augsburg Confession for many years and in which some have erred and serious religious contentions have arisen.

<sup>95</sup> From our exposition friends and foes may clearly understand that we have no intention (since we have no authority to do so) to yield anything of the eternal and unchangeable truth of God for the sake of temporal peace, tranquility, and outward harmony. Nor would such peace and harmony last, because it would be contrary to the truth and actually intended for its suppression. Still less by far are we minded to whitewash or cover up any falsification of true doctrine or any publicly condemned errors. We have a sincere delight in and deep love for true harmony and are cordially inclined and determined on our part to do everything in our power to further the same.

<sup>96</sup> We desire such harmony as will not violate God’s honor, that will not detract anything from the divine truth of the holy Gospel, that will not give place to the smallest error but will lead the poor sinner to true and sincere repentance, raise him up through faith, strengthen him in his new obedience, and thus justify and save him for ever through the sole merit of Christ, and so forth. ~ FC, SD XI:87-96

## ***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 – 116:1-9**

### **The Catechism – Apostles Creed: Second Article (bolded above)**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

### **Daily Readings:**

Sunday, September 15 – Colossians 2:8-23

Monday, September 16 – Colossians 3:1-25 (*Commemoration of Cyprian of Carthage, Pastor Martyr*)

Tuesday, September 17 – Colossians 4:1-18

Wednesday, September 18 – 1 Timothy 1:1-20

Thursday, September 19 – 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Friday, September 20 – 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Saturday, September 21 – 1 Timothy 4:1-16 (*Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist; suggested add'l reading: Matthew 9:9-13*)

**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...Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father 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. Jon Bruss; 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; Peter Hamilton; Arthur Holden; Marilyn Jorg; Joyce Keller; Ben Leary; Dorothy Mistler; Douglas Pabst; Eileen Reiter; Alice Ryan; 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 – *Seek Where You May to Find a Way*

*LSB #557, st. 3*

Seek Him alone  
Who did atone,  
Who did your souls deliver.  
O seek Him first,  
All you who thirst  
For grace that fails you never.  
In ev'ry need  
Seek Him indeed;  
To ev'ry heart  
He will impart  
His blessings without measure.

### 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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

*Jeremiah 11:18-20*

*James 3:13-4:10*

*Mark 9:30-37*