

CONFESSING CHRIST – DAILY LECTIONARY AND PRAYERS  
Pentecost-Trinity Seasons, 2009 (Part 3)

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Co-Editors

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.”

(Psalm 81:10)

+++

Sunday, 10/04 18 Pentecost/17 Trinity	Psalm 26 +1669, Rembrandt	Rex D. Perry Sheboygan, WI
Monday, 10/05	Prov. 1:7	Mark Pirazzini Eau Claire, WI
Tuesday, 10/06	Prov. 2:1-5	Richard Pleva Ankenny, IA
Wednesday, 10/07	Prov. 3:1-2	Carmen Porco Madison, WI
Thursday, 10/08	Prov. 3:11-12	Richard Hammond Price Langhorne, PA
Friday, 10/09	Prov. 6:6-9	William & Clara Rader Dauphin, PA
Saturday, 10/10	Prov. 7:1-3	Philip Ramstad Eden Prairie, MN
Sunday, 10/11 19 Pentecost/18 Trinity	Psalm 90:12-17 +1531 Ulrich Zwingli 1962, Opening of Vatican II by Pope John XXIII	Thomas Ressler St. Louis, MO
Monday, 10/12	Prov. 8:8 (Indigenous Peoples' Day)	Franz Rigert Cedarburg, WI
Tuesday, 10/13	Prov. 10:2	Edzard Rohland Bonn, Germany
Wednesday, 10/14	Prov. 10:11	Homer Royer East Greenville, PA

Thursday, 10/15	Prov. 11:2-3 1962, Amnesty International created to monitor human rights 1969, First Moratorium against the Vietnam War	Rudy Schade La Grange, IL
Friday, 10/16	Prov. 11:25	Gerhard W. Schmidt West Lafayette, IN
Saturday, 10/17	Prov. 12:1 +1586 Lucas Cranach, the Elder	Nikolaus Schneider Dusseldorf, Germany
Sunday, 10/18 20 Pentecost/19 Trinity	Isaiah 53:4-12	Gerald Schrankler Fond du Lac, WI
Monday, 10/19	Prov. 13:11 1934, Synod of Dahlem	Lothar Schreiner Wuppertal, Germany
Tuesday, 10/20	Prov. 14:21	David Ray Schroeder North Grandy, CT
Wednesday, 10/21	Prov. 15:2-3	Ralph Schultz, Waukesha, WI
Thursday, 10/22	Prov. 16:1 +1965, Paul Tillich	Carl F. Schultz, Jr. Glastonbury, CT
Friday, 10/23	Prov. 16:11	Marie Shetler Trapp, PA
Saturday, 10/24	Prov. 17:1 United Nations Day 1844, Philip Schaff's "The Principles of Protestantism"	James Silliman Shamokin, PA
Sunday, 10/25 21 Pentecost/20 Trinity Reformation Sunday	Psalms 34:1-8	James Silver Middletown, CT
Monday, 10/26	Prov. 17:24	Harold P. Simonson Tacoma, WA
Tuesday, 10/27	Prov. 18:4	Betsy Skinner Newsberry, FL
Wednesday, 10/28	Prov. 19:7 *1466, Desiderius Erasmus	David & Connie Slater Dover, NH

Thursday, 10/29	Prov. 19:17 *1900, Ludwig Steil	Samuel Slie West Haven, CT
Friday, 10/30	Prov. 19:27	Norman R. Small Gilmanton, NH
Saturday, 10/31 Festival of the Reformation	John 17:25-26	Stephen A. Small West Boylston, MA
Sunday, 11/01 22 Pentecost/21 Trinity All Saints' Day	Psalms 146	David Charles Smith Allentown, PA
Monday, 11/02	Prov. 20:3	Toni T. Smith Chester, CT
Tuesday, 11/03	Prov. 20:9	Jeannette Solimine Colfax, WA
Wednesday, 11/04	Prov. 20:23	Scott Spencer Rehoboth, MA
Thursday, 11/05	Prov. 21:02	Mr. & Mrs. Elroy Stauss Manitowoc, WI
Friday, 11/06	Prov. 21:7	Gary Stillwell Janesville, WI
Saturday, 11/07	Prov. 21:15 +Ignacio Martin Baro	Grace Taskinsoy Fountain Hills, AZ
Sunday, 11/08 23 Pentecost/22 Trinity	Psalms 127:1-2 *1897, Dorothy Day	James Tilbe Raynham, MA
Monday, 11/09	Prov. 22:2 *1930, Ignacio Ellacuria 1938, Night of Broken Glass 1989, Collapse of the Berlin Wall	Gary Titusdahl Cannon Falls, MN
Tuesday, 11/10	Prov. 22:17-19 *1483, Martin Luther	Harley & Shirley Tretow Berlin, WI
Wednesday, 11/11	Prov. 23:12 +1855, Soren Kierkegaard 1915, U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation founded	Frederick & Louise Trost Elkhart Lake, WI

Thursday, 11/12	Prov. 23:23	Jean Trost Canadaigua, NY
Friday, 11/13	Prov. 23:26	Jonathan H. Trost Rochester, NY
Saturday, 11/14	Prov. 24:3-4	Marianne Trost Fountain Hills, AZ
Sunday, 11/15 24 Pentecost/23 Trinity	Psalm 16 1840, Evangelical Church Society of the West founded	Robert & Ann Trost Grand Rapids, MI
Monday, 11/16	Prov. 24:13-14	Sarah E. Trost Milwaukee, WI
Tuesday, 11/17	Prov. 24:27	United Church of Christ Sulphur Springs, IN
Wednesday, 11/18	Prov. 25:11-12	Edward A. Walker Dennis, MA
Thursday, 11/19	Prov. 25:25	Mr. & Mrs. John R. Weiler Bethlehem, PA
Friday, 11/20	Prov. 26:2 1959, U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child	Roger Wentz Black River Falls, WI
Saturday, 11/21	Prov. 26:20 1863, Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address"	John A. Werley Malone, NY
Sunday, 11/22 25 Pentecost/24 Trinity	Psalm 23	Fritz West Marine on St. Croix, MN
Monday, 11/23	Prov. 26:21	Rudolf Weth Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany
Tuesday, 11/24	Prov. 27:1	Jean T. Whitcomb Paxton, MA
Wednesday, 11/25	Prov. 27:23-24 +1748, Isaac Watts *1881, Pope John XXIII	Cody Williams New York, NY
Thursday, 11/26 Thanksgiving Day	Psalm 92:1-4	David Yochum Whitewater, WI

Friday, 11/27

Prov. 28:10

Nathaniel Yordon  
Norwalk, CT

Saturday, 11/28

Micah 7:18-20

Elga Zachau  
Bochum, Germany

+++

**RESOURCES FOR USE IN THE PENTECOST/TRINITY SEASONS, 2009 (Part 3)***A Prayer for Wisdom and Strength:*

Almighty God, of Your fullness grant to us who need so much, who lack so much, who have so often so little faith; grant to us, wisdom and strength. Bring our wills to You. Lift our understanding into Your...light, that, beholding those things which are right, and being drawn to Your love, our will and our understanding might be brought together in Your service, until at last, body and soul and spirit are Yours, and You, our eternal hope and strength through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(adapt., George Dawson, 1821-1876)

*A Prayer Amidst Trembling:*

O God, who has crafted the universe and called us to life, who exhorts us to pray, and who grants what we ask, if only, when we ask, we live a better life; hear me, who am trembling in this darkness, and stretch forth Your hand to me; hold forth Your light before me; recall me from my wanderings; and being my Guide, restore me to myself and to You, through Jesus Christ.

(adapt., St. Augustine, 354-430)

*A Prayer for Clemency:*

O blessed Lord and Savior, who has commanded us to love one another, grant us grace that, having received Your undeserved bounty, we may love all persons in You and for You. We implore Your clemency for all, but especially for the friends whom Your love has given to us. Love them, O Fountain of love, and make them to love You with all their heart, with all their mind, and with all their soul, that those things only which are pleasing to You they may will, and speak, and do. And though our prayer is cold, because our charity is so little fervent, yet You are rich in mercy. Measure not to them Your goodness by the dullness of our devotion, but as Your kindness surpasses all human affection, so let Your hearing transcend our prayer. Do to them what is expedient for them, according to Your will, that they, being always and everywhere ruled and protected by Your grace, may attain in the end to everlasting life, and to You...be all honor and praise for ever and ever.

(adapt., St. Anselm, 1033-1109)

*"Feed the hungry; raise up the weak":*

We beg You, Lord and Master, to be our help and succor. Abide with those who are in tribulation, have mercy on the lonely, lift up the fallen, show Yourself to the needy, heal the ungodly, convert the wanderers among us, feed the hungry, raise up the weak, comfort the faint-hearted. Let all the peoples know that You are God, and Jesus Christ is Your Son, and we are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture, for the sake of Christ Jesus.

(adapt., St. Clement of Rome, 90 A.D.)

*"Eternal God, sanctify my body and soul":*

Eternal God, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may be by me designed for the glorification of Your Name, and by Your blessing, it may be effective and successful in Your work among us. . Turn my necessities into virtue, the works of nature into the works of grace, by making them orderly, regular, temperate, and let no pride or self-seeking, no covetousness or revenge, no little ends or low imaginations, pollute my spirit, or diminish any of my words and actions, but let my body be a servant of my spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Your Word, that, doing all things for Your glory here, I may be surrounded by Your glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(adapt, Jeremy Taylor, 1613-1667)

*"As Torrents in Summer..."*

As torrents in summer, half-dried in their channels,  
Suddenly rise, though the sky is still cloudless,  
For rain has been falling far off at their fountains;  
So hearts that are fainting grow full to o'er flowing,  
And they that behold it marvel, and know not  
That God at their fountains far off has been raining!

(anon.)

*A Prayer of the Church:*

Gracious God, You who are high and lifted up, yet ever near to Your creation, the Holy One, who has inspired the souls of the prophets of old and lifted the hearts of the poor, You who accompany with a profound and gracious love not only the course of the stars in the universe, but the lives of each of us: we have much for which to give You thanks. For life itself, for the precious years entrusted to us,...for the gifts of health and healing, for deep and lasting friendships, for family and all who care for us, for teachers who have encouraged and corrected us, taught us to think and to dream; for all who have nurtured in us the will to learn and to be compassionate, who have reminded us of the eternal quest for just, for peace and the wonder of an abiding shalom, we offer our gratitude.

We, who live amidst abundance, ask You, with the dawn of each new day, help us to be grateful, and to remember, to truly remember, those who long for a cup of water, who beg for a loaf of bread, who ache for a bowl of rice; all who are swamped by tears of sorrow or pain, and those who have no place to lay their heads today. Hold each one of these close to Your heart, and bring them close to us as well, that we might see and we might hear. Grant us faith to behold that day You have promised when the wolf shall lie down with the lamb; to work for it as well, and to live in its brightness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Frederick Trost)

+++

Every Light has its Shadow:  
Every light has its shadow....

(Nagger Wolf)

*A Good Preacher:*

The mark of a good preacher in (the) Church is that he or she answers questions no one in the congregation is asking...The mark of a bad preacher is that he or she answers questions no one in the congregation is asking.

(Nagger Wolf/Frederick Trost)

*"Be Still My Soul":*

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, and love's purest joys restored.  
Be still my soul: when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

(Katharina von Schlegel, 1752)

*Violence:*

Violence, less and less embarrassed by the limits imposed by centuries of lawfulness, is brazenly and victoriously striding across the whole world, unconcerned that its infertility has been demonstrated and proven many times in history. What is more, it is not simply crude power that triumphs abroad, but its exultant justification. The world is being inundated by the brazen conviction that power can do anything, justice nothing...

(Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, Nobel Lecture in Literature, 1972)

*But,... Violence Does Not Live Alone:*

But let us not forget that violence does not live alone and is not capable of living alone: It is necessarily interwoven with falsehood. Between them lies the most intimate, the deepest of natural bonds. Violence finds its only refuge in falsehood, falsehood its only support in violence. (One) who has once acclaimed violence as his (or her) method must inexorably choose falsehood as his (or her) principle. At its birth violence acts openly and even with pride. But no sooner does it become strong, firmly established, than it senses the rarefaction of the air around it and it cannot continue to exist without descending into a fog of lies, clothing them in sweet talk. It does not always, not necessarily, openly throttle the throat; more often it demands from its subjects only an oath of allegiance to falsehood, only complicity in falsehood.

(Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, Nobel Lecture in Literature, 1972)

*The Vocation of the Church:*

The Church is empowered to live its difficult and painful vocation in the world. The Church is able to do this so long as it is not cut off from its support in worship. A private relationship with Jesus (can) become the focal experience of the Church. Then the weight shifts to the individual. Words of praise are reduced from awe and wonder to what God is able to do "for me." Faith should be understood in terms of what God has done for the world... The Church needs a new word; a hope-filled word, and the language and experience of worship in a world filled with words of pain, hate and alienation. We are called to reclaim the Church's identity, believing that the world is God's and we are God's and our vocation is to act in and for the world, as God has acted in Christ...

(Notes, Gail O'Day, "The Language of Faith and Worship," 1988)

*The God of the Bible is Partisan:*

The God of the Bible is partisan. God takes sides with life against death. God takes sides against death by hunger and by bread alone. To believe in God means to go over to the side of life and stop being an accomplice of death. ...

(Dorothea Soelle, sermon, Stanford University, 1976)

The essence of the gospel which gives life to the church lies in the complete involvement of Christ with the world, together with his moral transcendence of it. The doctrine of the church from which all criticism must proceed has in it a dynamic paradox of "no" and "yes." The church that was founded in the incarnation, passion, and resurrection of Christ is not an institution which invariably says yes to the world, nor one which invariably says no. It is as fastidious as the (one) seeking a goodly pearl and as hospitable as the dragnet (Matt. 13:45-47). Therefore if any music is composed or performed with an eye simply to attracting the unconverted, it is likely to fall into the same error we find in the person who, in order to make users of bad language feel at home, uses bad language himself. Similarly, music written or performed by people who select only the most sensitive and best instructed people for disciples will be too much "on its dignity" to help anybody. There needs to be, in composition and choice, a combination of the yes and the no that corresponds as exactly as our sinful nature allows to the yes and no that are in the Word of God... Wherever church music of any kind is associated with operations that bear the marks of what this world calls success (which crudely means exerting an appeal to large numbers of people), a touch of suspicion should creep in....

(Erik Routley in "Church Music and the Christian Faith," Carol Stream, Illinois, Agape, 1978/1984)

*The Dross and the Gold:*

One can serve God with the body, even with one's passions; one must only be able to distinguish between the dross and the gold. This world acquires flavor only when a little of the other world is mingled with it. Without nobility of the spirit, the flesh is full of darkness...

(Abraham Joshua Heschel in Susannah Heschel, "Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity,"  
New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996)

+++