

CONFESSING CHRIST - DAILY LECTIONARY AND PRAYERS

Pentecost-Trinity Season, 2013 (2)

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Editors

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"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers." (Psalm 24:1-2)

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<i>10 Pentecost/9 Trinity, 7/28</i>	<i>Luke 11:1-13 +1750 Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	<i>Carl Miehlske Arlington Heights, IL</i>
<i>Monday, 7/29</i>	<i>Psalm 85 +1833, William Wilberforce +1890, Vincent van Gogh</i>	<i>Joseph E. Mills, III Westchester, IL</i>
<i>Tuesday, 7/30</i>	<i>Psalm 138</i>	<i>John C. Modschiedler Chicago, IL</i>
<i>Wednesday, 7/31</i>	<i>Hosea 1:2-10</i>	<i>Henry A. Mol Whitewater, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 8/01</i>	<i>Colossians 2:6-15</i>	<i>Donald Morgan Rocky Hill, CT</i>
<i>Friday, 8/02</i>	<i>Psalm 24:3-6</i>	<i>Ray Morris, Jr. Gowanda, NY</i>
<i>Saturday, 8/03</i>	<i>Psalm 24:7-10</i>	<i>Karen Munn Medfield, MA</i>
<i>11 Pentecost/10 Trinity, 8/04</i>	<i>Luke 12:13-21 +64, Martyrs of Nero's Persecution</i>	<i>Calvin F. Mutti Brewster, MA</i>
<i>Monday, 8/05</i>	<i>Hosea 11:1-11</i>	<i>Edwin M. Neff Newland, NC</i>
<i>Tuesday, 8/06 (Hiroshima Remembrance Day)</i>	<i>Psalm 94:1-15 1945, Atomic Bomb 1965, Voting Rights Act</i>	<i>David C. Norling White River Jct., VT</i>

<i>Wednesday, 8/07</i>	<i>Psalm 107:1-9, 43</i>	<i>Robert O'Donnell Newmarket, NH</i>
<i>Thursday, 8/08</i>	<i>Psalm 49:1-12 1945, U.S. Ratification of the U.N. Charter</i>	<i>Ruth Olsen Nebraska</i>
<i>Friday, 8/09</i>	<i>Colossians 3:1-11 +1942, Edith Stein +1943, Franz Jägerstätter 1945, Atomic Bomb</i>	<i>Jan Overson Norton, MA</i>
<i>Saturday, 8/10</i>	<i>Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14</i>	<i>Doris Paine Wernersville, PA</i>
<i>12 Pentecost/11 Trinity, 8/11</i>	<i>Luke 12:32-40</i>	<i>Nancy Panzer Kewaskum, WI</i>
<i>Monday, 8/12</i>	<i>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 1949, Geneva Convention of Protection of War Victims</i>	<i>John Payne Lancaster, PA</i>
<i>Tuesday, 8/13</i>	<i>Psalm 50:1-6, 22-23 +1910, Florence Nightingale</i>	<i>Thomas Perl Las Vegas, NV</i>
<i>Wednesday, 8/14</i>	<i>Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 +1941, Maximilian Kolbe 1846, Henry David Thoreau jailed (War tax resistance)</i>	<i>Mark Pirazzini Eau Claire, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 8/15</i>	<i>Psalm 33:12-22 *1917, Óscar Romero</i>	<i>Dietmar Plajer Selinsgrove, PA</i>
<i>Friday, 8/16</i>	<i>Genesis 15:1-6</i>	<i>Richard Pleva Ankenny, IA</i>
<i>Saturday, 8/17</i>	<i>Psalm 51:6-12</i>	<i>Carmen & May Porco Madison, WI</i>
<i>13 Pentecost/12 Trinity, 8/18</i>	<i>Luke 12:49-56 +2008, George Knight</i>	<i>Emily B. Preston Jaffrey, NH</i>
<i>Monday, 8/19</i>	<i>Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 +1662, Blaise Pascal</i>	<i>William Rader Dauphin, PA</i>
<i>Tuesday, 8/20</i>	<i>Psalm 82 +1153, Bernard of Clairvaux</i>	<i>Philip Ramstad Eden Prairie, MN</i>

<i>Wednesday, 8/21</i>	<i>Hebrews 11:29-12:2</i>	<i>Manfred Rekowski Dusseldorf, Germany</i>
<i>Thursday, 8/22</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7</i>	<i>Thomas Ressler St. Louis, MO</i>
<i>Friday, 8/23</i>	<i>Jeremiah 23:23-29 1535, Calvin's Institutes 1948, World Council of Churches</i>	<i>Mark Rideout Somersworth, NH</i>
<i>Saturday, 8/24</i>	<i>Psalms 53:1-3</i>	<i>Edzard Rohland Bonn, Germany</i>
<i>14 Pentecost/13 Trinity, 8/25</i>	<i>Luke 13:10-17</i>	<i>Homer Royer East Greenville, PA</i>
<i>Monday, 8/26</i>	<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10 1920, U.S. Voting Rights for Women</i>	<i>St. Matthew's UCC Hamburg, NY</i>
<i>Tuesday, 8/27</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:9b-14 +1910, Mother Teresa</i>	<i>Paul Sangree Foxboro, MA</i>
<i>Wednesday, 8/28</i>	<i>Psalms 103:1-8 +430, Augustine 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. Address "I Have a Dream"</i>	<i>Rudy Schade La Grange, IL</i>
<i>Thursday, 8/29</i>	<i>Hebrews 12:18-29 +1943, Simone Weil</i>	<i>Karl C. & Elizabeth Schaffenburg Sheboygan, WI</i>
<i>Friday, 8/30</i>	<i>Psalms 71:1-6 +1688, John Bunyan</i>	<i>Gerhard W. Schmidt West Lafayette, IN</i>
<i>Saturday, 8/31</i>	<i>Psalms 101:1-3</i>	<i>Nikolaus Schneider Berlin, Germany</i>
<i>15 Pentecost/14 Trinity, 9/01</i>	<i>Luke 14:1,7-14 1939, World War II begins</i>	<i>Gerald Schrankler Fond du Lac, WI</i>
<i>Monday, 9/02</i>	<i>Jeremiah 2:4-13 1945, World War II ends (Tokyo)</i>	<i>Lothar Schreiner Wuppertal, Germany</i>
<i>Tuesday, 9/03</i>	<i>Psalms 81:1,10-16</i>	<i>Daniel Ray Schroeder North Granby, CT</i>

<i>Wednesday, 9/04</i>	<i>Psalms 112 1948, First World Council of Churches Peace Message +1965, Albert Schweitzer</i>	<i>Ralph Schultz Waukesha, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 9/05</i>	<i>Proverbs 25:6-7</i>	<i>Catherine Marie Shetler Quarryville, PA</i>
<i>Friday, 9/06</i>	<i>Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 *1860, Jane Addams</i>	<i>John Silliman Shamokin, PA</i>
<i>Saturday, 9/07</i>	<i>Psalms 113</i>	<i>James Silver Middletown, CT</i>
<i>16 Pentecost/15 Trinity, 9/08</i>	<i>Luke 14:25-33</i>	<i>Betsy Skinner Archer, FL</i>
<i>Monday, 9/09 (Labor Day)</i>	<i>Psalms 1</i>	<i>David & Connie Slater Dover, NH</i>
<i>Tuesday, 9/10</i>	<i>Philemon 1-21 *1828, Leo Tolstoy</i>	<i>Samuel Slie West Haven, CT</i>
<i>Wednesday, 9/11 (Day of Remembrance)</i>	<i>Psalms 119:33-37</i>	<i>Norman R. Small Gilmanton, NH</i>
<i>Thursday, 9/12</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20 +1977, Stephen Biko</i>	<i>Stephan A. Small West Boylston, MA</i>
<i>Friday, 9/13</i>	<i>Jeremiah 18:1-11</i>	<i>Sally S. Smith Sonora, CA</i>
<i>Saturday, 9/14</i>	<i>John 14:1-7</i>	<i>Toni T. Smith Chester, CT</i>
<i>17 Pentecost/16 Trinity, 9/15</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-10 *1907, Alfred Delp</i>	<i>Jeannette Solimine Colfax, WA</i>
<i>Monday, 9/16</i>	<i>1 Timothy 1:12-17 *1916, Alexander Schmorell +1963, Martyred Children of Birmingham, Alabama</i>	<i>Scott Spencer Rehoboth, MA</i>
<i>Tuesday, 9/17</i>	<i>Psalms 14 +1179, Hildegard of Bingen</i>	<i>Peter B. St. Martin Grand Rapids, MI</i>

<i>Wednesday, 9/18</i>	<i>Psalms 51:1-10 +1961, Dag Hammarskjöld</i>	<i>Gary Stillwell Janesville, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 9/19</i>	<i>Exodus 32:7-14</i>	<i>Karl Strohmeier Lenexa, KS</i>
<i>Friday, 9/20</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:1-11 1848, Universal Peace Conference (Brussels)</i>	<i>James Tilbe Rayham, MA</i>
<i>Saturday, 9/21</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:12-28 International Day of Peace</i>	<i>Gary Titusdahl Cannon Falls, MN</i>
<i>18 Pentecost/17 Trinity, 9/22</i>	<i>Luke 16:19-31 *1981, Hans Schöll 1961, U.S. Peace Corps</i>	<i>Harley C.W. & Shirley Tretow Berlin, WI</i>
<i>Monday, 9/23</i>	<i>Psalms 113</i>	<i>Ann Trost Grand Rapids, MI</i>
<i>Tuesday, 9/24</i>	<i>Amos 8:4-7</i>	<i>Christine Trost Berkeley, CA</i>
<i>Wednesday, 9/25</i>	<i>1 Timothy 2:1-7</i>	<i>Frederick & Louise Trost Elkhart Lake, WI</i>
<i>Thursday, 9/26</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:1-3 1924, Declaration of the Rights of the Child</i>	<i>Jonathan H. Trost Rochester, NY</i>
<i>Friday, 9/27</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 1937, Finkenwalde Seminary Closed</i>	<i>Margaret L. Trost Berkeley, CA</i>
<i>Saturday, 9/28</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 4:1-6</i>	<i>Marianne Trost Fountain Hills, AZ</i>

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PRAYERS AND RESOURCES FOR THE PENTECOST/TRINITY SEASON, 2013 (2)

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PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Eternal Trinity, you are a deep sea into which the more I enter the more I find and the more I find the more I seek. The soul ever hungers in your abyss, Eternal Trinity, longing to see you with the light of your light, and as the deer yearns for the springs of water, so my soul yearns to see you in truth.

(Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380 A.D.)

Catherine of Siena was the twenty-fourth of twenty-five children born to her parents. Her life was deeply influenced by a vision of Christ who, she wrote, said to her: "Know daughter that I am He who is, and thou art that which is not." She shaped her spirituality and her vocation by these words. She became a Dominican tertiary saying that "My cell will not be one of stone or wood, but of self-knowledge." For several years, she lived alone in her room, where she struggled with doubts and fears, which she was finally able to escape. When Christ finally appeared to her, she asked, "Where were you when all of this was happening?" To which, she says, Christ replied, "I was in your heart." From then on, it has been said, there were daily "visits" and conversations with Jesus and numerous saints. She emerged from her room, returned to her family, and began to serve the sick, the poor, prisoners and victims of the plague that visited Europe. Her healing miracles attracted a large following, the so-called "Caterinata," which included women and men, among whom she became known as "Mama." In 1374, she appeared to have died. She re-awoke at the command of Christ who instructed her to return to the world "for the good of souls." She became a well-known public figure who counseled both the pope and representatives of the "powers and principalities" of the world. She urged Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon, insisting that his place was "alongside the bones of the martyrs." She died in 1380 and in 1970 was named a "Doctor of the Church."

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Great and merciful God, your life is the source of the whole world's life; your mercy is our only hope; your eyes watch over all your creatures; you know the secrets of our hearts. By your life-giving Spirit, draw us into your presence, that we may worship in the true life of your Spirit, which lives moved by your love, through him who has led us to your heart... even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(The Church of South India)

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I am not worthy, Master and Lord, that you should come beneath the roof of my soul; yet since in your love towards all, you wish to dwell in me, in boldness I come, (that) you will come in and enlighten my darkened reasoning. I believe that you will do this, for you did not send away the harlot who came to you with tears, nor cast out the repenting tax-collector, nor reject the thief who acknowledged your kingdom. But you counted all of these as members of your band of friends. You are blessed for evermore.

(St. John Chrysostom, c. 347-407)

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Lord, you are my lover; you are my flowing stream; you are my sun. Make me your reflection.

(Mechtild of Magdeburg, 1207-1294)

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O God, in whom nothing can live but as it lives in love: grant us the spirit of love, which does not want to be rewarded, honored, or esteemed, but only to become the blessing and happiness of all who need it. This we pray in your name, for you yourself are Love, in time and eternity.

(William Law, 1686-1761)

*William Law is said to have been, in the estimate of many observers, one of the most important writers in the field of practical theology in the 18th century. A mystic living in the midst of a world where rationalism reigned; he is most famous for his *Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, first published in London in 1729. In his *The Spirit of Prayer* (1750) and in *The Spirit of Love* (1754) he engages in debate with those who resisted his views. He suffered for his convictions. Refusing to make an oath of allegiance to King George I, he forfeited his fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He remained to the end of his earthly life, a theologian of deeply held convictions.*

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Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me...

(Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

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Give yourself up to ever so many good works; read, preach, pray, visit the sick, build hospitals, clothe the naked, etc., yet if anything goes along with these or in the doing of them you have anything else that you will and hunger after, but that God's kingdom may come and his will be done, they are not the works of the newborn from above and so cannot be his life-giving food. For the new creature in Christ is that one will and one hunger that was in Christ, and therefore, where that is wanting, there is wanting that new creature which alone can have His conversation.

(William Law)

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As Tobit taught his son to pray (and) God to direct his life (Tobit 4:19), so you too should despair of yourself and pray that God may guide your steps according to his Word, just as Jeremiah says: "I know, O Lord, that the way of human beings is not in themselves, that mortals as they walk cannot direct their steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). But above all, clothe yourself with great gentleness towards sinners, for it is necessary to the priest that he (she) despise

none, but rather deem their sins and miseries as your own, as you see Christ has done toward us.

(Martin Luther)

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It is possible to be so active in the service of Christ as to forget to love him. Many of us preach Christ but get in front of him by the multiplicity of our own works. It will be our ruin if we do! Christ can do without our works; what he wants is us. Yet if he really has us, he will have all our works.

(Peter Taylor Forsythe, 1848-1921)

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It is a sad thing that so many of us... preach our hearers asleep; but it is sadder still if we have studied and preached ourselves asleep, and have talked so long against hardness of heart, till our own grow hardened under the noise of our own reproofs. Though the head only have eyes and ears and smell and taste, the heart should have life and feeling and motion as well as the head.

(Richard Baxter, 1615-1691)

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When we struggle for human rights, for freedom, for dignity, when we feel that it is a ministry of the Church to concern itself for those who are hungry, for those who have no schools, for those who are deprived, we are not departing from God's promise. God comes to free us from sin, and the Church knows that sin's consequences are all such injustices and abuses...

(Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero, 1917-1980)

I rejoice, brothers and sisters, that (the) Church is persecuted precisely for its preferential option for the poor and for seeking to become incarnate in the interests of the poor... How sad it would be in a country where such horrible murders are being committed if there were no priests among the victims.

(Romero)

"The selection in 1977 of Óscar Romero as archbishop of San Salvador delighted the country's oligarchy as much as it disappointed the activist clergy of the archdiocese. Known as a pious and relatively conservative bishop, there was nothing in his background to suggest that he was a man to challenge the status quo. No one could have predicted that in three short years he would be renowned as the outstanding embodiment of the prophetic church, a 'voice for the voiceless,' or as one theologian called him, 'a gospel for El Salvador.' Nor could one foresee that he would be denounced by his fellow bishops, earn the hatred of the rich and

powerful... and generate such enmity that he would be targeted for assassination—the first bishop slain at the altar since Thomas Becket in the twelfth century...”

(Robert Ellsberg)

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We were weary, and we (were) fearful, and we, in our march, fain to drop down and die. Still you turned and still beckoned the trembler, and still gave the weary your hand! If, in the paths of this world, stones might have wounded your feet, toil or dejection have tried your spirit, of that we saw... nothing! To us you were still cheerful and helpful and firm. Therefore to you it was given many to save with yourself; and, at the end of the day, o faithful shepherd... to come, bringing your sheep in your hand.”

(Matthew Arnold, 1822-1888)

*Matthew Arnold was an educator who taught poetry at Oxford from 1857-1867. He was renowned as a literary critic during his lifetime. He urged the Church to become acquainted with the best thinking taking place in the world, acknowledging that much of it was taking place beyond the walls of the Church's sanctuaries. Among his writings on religious themes are *St. Paul and Protestantism* in 1870, *Literature and Dogma* in 1873 and *Last Essays on Church and Religion* in 1877.*

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Christianity exists for slaves. It is the religion of the oppressed, of those marked by affliction. It concerns itself with their needs. People are pronounced blessed not because of their achievements or their behavior, but with regard to their needs. Blessed are the poor, the suffering, the persecuted, the hungry... Siding with the less fit, less valuable or strong has been seen by no one more clearly than by one of Christianity's harshest critics, Friedrich Nietzsche. Christianity arose among “the lowest classes, the underworld of the ancient world” he wrote... It was precisely all the failures, all the rebellious-minded, all the less favored, the whole scum and refuse of humanity who were “won over by it.” (Nietzsche). Christianity is a rebellion of everything that crawls on the ground against that which has height; “the evangel of the ‘lowly’ makes low.” Christianity... is in fact the religion of those who have been disinherited and condemned by life. Contrary to all vitalism and all worship of the healthy and strong, Christianity sees life better preserved by those who have already died once...

*(Dorothee Soelle in *Suffering*, Philadelphia, Fortress Press,
English translation 1975)*

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In the basement of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery there is a large mural depicting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ascension into heaven. He is clothed in white raiment and appears to be preaching or giving a benediction as he rises. In the painting, he is surrounded by his forebears and teachers, including Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Du Bois, Vernon Johns, his mother and the martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement. The mural symbolizes the thicknesses of King's spiritual environment. In the formative period of

his life, he was encompassed by a series of concentric circles: first Mother Church, next by the tradition of the black preachers and reformers who came before him, and finally by the circle of mentors and teachers who guided his preparation for ministry. If there were a text beneath the mural it might well be from the Book of Hebrews, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."

*(Richard Lischer in *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Word that Moved America*, New York/Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1995)*

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A Christian... is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian... is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

(Luther)

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Thus, at all times, meditatio, tentatio, and oratio have obtained and should obtain great importance in the congregation.

(Wolfgang Trillhaas, born 1903)

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You are invited to refer to the Confessing Christ website at the following address:

<http://confessingchrist.net>

Confessing Christ materials are being prepared at the Mission House Center, Lakeland College. Those no longer wishing to receive materials or those with address changes should contact Colleen Darling, Lakeland College, P.O. Box 359, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0359, by e-mail darlingca@lakeland.edu or by calling 920-565-1538.

"For no one can lay foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ."

(1 Cor. 3:11, NRSV)