

CONFESSING CHRIST – DAILY LECTIONARY AND PRAYERS

Pentecost/Trinity 2014 (2)

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Editors

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“Like weary waves, thought flows upon thought, but the still depth beneath is all thine own.” (George Macdonald, 1824-1905)

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Seventh Sunday after Trinity, 8/03 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)	Matthew 14:22-33	Dale Kuck Merrill, WI
Monday, 8/04	Matthew 14:34-36 +64, Martyrs of Nero's Persecution	Karl & Kathryn Kuhn Kiel, WI
Tuesday, 8/05	Luke 15:11-24	Jurgen Kunellis Issum, Germany
Wednesday, 8/06	Luke 15:25-32 1945, Atomic bombing of Hiroshima 1965, Voting Rights Act	Fred Kurkowski Clemmons, NC
Thursday, 8/07	Luke 16:19-31	Thomas B. Lane Bradenton, FL
Friday, 8/08	Luke 8:4-15 1945, U.S. ratification of the U.N. Charter	Andy Lang Cleveland, OH

Saturday, 8/09	Matthew 13:31-33 1945, Atomic bombing of Nagasaki	David & Lynne Lauer Elkhart Lake, WI
Eighth Sunday after Trinity, 8/10 (Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)	Psalms 105:1-6	Carl W. Lavin New Braunfels, TX
Monday, 8/11	Matthew 13:1-9	John Lengel Richland, PA
Tuesday, 8/12	Matthew 13:10-17 1949, Geneva Conventions of Protection of War Victims	Wanda Lester Greenville, PA
Wednesday, 8/13	Matthew 13:18-23 +1910, Florence Nightingale	John C. Lombard Concord, MA
Thursday, 8/14	Matthew 13:24-30 +1941, Maximilian Kolbe 1846, Henry David Thoreau jailed (War tax resistance)	Anna Lutz Lancaster, PA
Friday, 8/15	Matthew 13:31-33 *1917, Oscar Romero	Brad S. Lutz Fort Lauderdale, FL
Saturday, 8/16	Matthew 13:36-43	Charles Mackley Clear Spring, MD

“Lord, teach me the silence of love, the silence of wisdom,
the silence of humility, the silence of faith, that speaks
without words.” (16th century)

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Ninth Sunday after Trinity, 8/17 (Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)	Matthew 15:21-28	Robert J. MacLeod Millbury, MA
Monday, 8/18	Matthew 13:44-46 +2008, George Knight	Alan Macy Great Barrington, MA
Tuesday, 8/19	Matthew 13:47-53 +1622, Blaise Pascal	James Martin & Jennifer Dawson Fond du Lac, WI
Wednesday, 8/20	Matthew 13:54-58 +1153, Bernard of Clairvaux	George C. Martz New Bloomfield, PA
Thursday, 8/21	Mark 4:26-34	James N. McCutcheon Brewster, MA
Friday, 8/22	Luke 16:1-9	Maureen McDonnell Madison, WI
Saturday, 8/23	Matthew 21:33-43 1535, Calvin's Institutes 1948, World Council of Churches	Duane McDonough Cedarville, IL
Tenth Sunday after Trinity, 8/24 (Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)	Romans 12:1-8	Douglas & Blair Gilmer Meeks Brentwood, TN
Monday, 8/25	Matthew 21:33-43	Robert & Leslie Meyer Chicago, IL
Tuesday, 8/26	Matthew 19:23-26 1920, U.S. Voting Rights for Women	David Michael Madison, WI
Wednesday, 8/27	Matthew 19:27-30 *1910, Mother Teresa	Carl Miehke Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday, 8/28	Matthew 20:1-16 +430, Augustine 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s address, "I Have a Dream"	Joseph E. Mills, III Westchester, IL
Friday, 8/29	Luke 18:9-14 +1943, Simone Weil	Larry Mitchell Chico, CA
Saturday, 8/30	Luke 19:11-26 +1688, John Bunyan	John C. Modschiedler Chicago, IL

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"Lord, teach me to silence my heart
that I may listen to the gentle movement
of the Holy Spirit within me,
and sense the depths which are God..."
(16th century)

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Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, 8/31 (Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)	Matthew 16:24-26	Henry A. Mol Whitewater, WI
Monday, 9/01 (Labor Day)	Luke 14:25-33 1939, World War II begins	Donald Morgan Rocky Hill, CT
Tuesday, 9/02	Luke 10:22-24 1945, World War II ends (Tokyo)	Ray Morris, Jr Pinehurst, NC
Wednesday, 9/03	Luke 10:25-37	David Moyer Waunakee, WI

Thursday, 9/04	Luke 10:38-42 1948, First World Council of Churches Pease Message +1965, Albert Schweitzer	Karen Munn Medfield, MA
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Friday, 9/05	Matthew 25:1-13	Calvin F. Mutti Brewster, MA
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Saturday, 9/06	Matthew 22:1-14 *1860, Jane Addams	Edwin M. Neff Newland, NC
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Let me now go forth, O Lord my God, to the work of another day,
still surrounded by your wonderful loving-kindness,
still pledged to your loyal service,
still standing in your strength and not my own.
(John Baillie, 1886-1960)

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Twelfth Sunday after Trinity, 9/07 (Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)	Matthew 18:15-20	David G. Norling White River Jct., VT
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Monday, 9/08	Mark 4:1-9 1675, Spener's "Pia Desideria"	Robert O'Donnell Newmarket, NH
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Tuesday, 9/09	Mark 4:10-20	Jan Overton Norton, MA
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Wednesday, 9/10	Romans 12:1-2 *1828, Leo Tolstoy	Doris Paine Wernersville, PA
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Thursday, 9/11 (Day of Remembrance)	Psalms 23	Nancy Panzer Kewaskum, WI
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Friday, 9/12	Romans 12:3-13 +1977, Stephen Biko	John Payne Lancaster, PA
Saturday, 9/13	Romans 12:14-21	Thomas Perl Las Vegas, NV
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, 9/14 (Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost)	Psalms 103:1-5	Mark Pirazzini Eau Claire, WI
Monday, 9/15	Psalms 103:8-13 *1907, Alfred Delp	Dietmar Plajer Selinsgrove, PA
Tuesday, 9/16	Romans 15:1-6 *1916, Alexander Schmorell +1963, Martyred children of Birmingham, Alabama	Richard Pleva Ankenny, IA
Wednesday, 9/17	Romans 15:7-13 +1179, Hildegard of Bingen	Carmen & May Porco Madison, WI
Thursday, 9/18	Psalms 114 +1961, Dag Hammarskjöld	Emily B. Preston Jaffrey, NH
Friday, 9/19	Psalms 116:1-4	William Rader Dauphin, PA
Saturday, 9/20	Psalms 116:5-7 1848, Universal Peace Conference, Brussels	Philip Ramstad Eden Prairie, MN
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, 9/21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Psalms 145:1-9 International Day of Peace	Manfred Rekowski Dusseldorf, Germany
Monday, 9/22	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 *1918, Hans Scholl 1961, U.S. Peace Corps	Thomas Ressler St. Louis, MO

Tuesday, 9/23	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Mark A. Rideout Somersworth, NH
Wednesday, 9/24	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Franz Rigert Cedarburg, WI
Thursday, 9/25	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Edzard Rohland Bonn, Germany
Friday, 9/26	Isaiah 58:1-5 1924, Declaration of the Rights of the Child	Homer Royer East Greenville, PA
Saturday, 9/27	Isaiah 58:6-9 1937, Finkenwald Seminary closed	Saint Matthews UCC Hamburg, NY
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, 9/28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Philippians 2:1-11	Paul Sangree Foxboro, MA
Monday, 9/29	Philippians 2:12-18 1795, Kant's "Perpetual Peace"	Rudy Schade La Grange, IL
Tuesday, 9/30	Colossians 1:1-8	Gerhard W. Schmidt West Lafayette, IN
Wednesday, 10/01	Colossians 1:9-14 +1968, Romano Guardini	Nikolaus & Anne Schneider Berlin, Germany
Thursday, 10/02	Colossians 1:15-20 *1869, Mohandas Gandhi	Gerald Schrankler Fond du Lac, WI
Friday, 10/03	Colossians 1:21-23 +1226, Francis of Assisi +1958, George Bell	Lothar Schreiner Wuppertal, Germany

Saturday, 10/04

Colossians 1:24-29
+1669, Rembrandt

Daniel Ray Schroeder
West Orange, N.J.

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While I sleep, O Lord, let my heart not cease to worship you;
Fill my sleep with your presence,
while creation itself keeps watch,
singing psalms with the angels,
and taking up my soul into its paeon of praise.
(Gregory of Nazianzus, c. 330-389 C.E.)

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PRAYERS AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR PENTECOST & TRINITY
SEASONS, 2014 (2)

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Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. (Sarum Breviary)

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We praise you, O God: we acknowledge you to be the Lord... Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory. The glorious company of the apostles praise you. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise you. The noble army of the martyrs praise you. The holy Church throughout all the world acknowledges you:

The Father of an infinite majesty.
Your honorable, true and only Son.
Also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

(Te Deum Laudamus)

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God, who as at this time did teach the hearts of your faithful people, by the sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. (Book of Common Prayer – Pentecost)

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O living God, come and make our souls temples of you Spirit.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

Baptize your whole Church with fire, that the divisions soon may cease, and that it may stand before the world as a pillar and buttress of your truth.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

Grant us all the fruits of your Holy Spirit: love for one another, joy, peace, patience, good will and faithfulness.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

May the Holy Spirit speak by the voice of your servants, here and everywhere, as they preach your word.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

Send your Holy Spirit, the comforter, to all who face adversity or who are the victims of human wickedness.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

Preserve all nations and their leaders from hatred and war, and build up a true community among nations, through the power of the Spirit.

Sanctify us, O Lord!

... Spirit of wisdom and understanding, Spirit of counsel and strength, Spirit of knowledge and devotion,
Spirit of obedience to the Lord,

Sanctify us! (Litany of the Holy Spirit, Taizé Community)

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Descend, O heavenly Dove, Abide with us always.
And in the fullness of your love, Cleanse us, we pray. (8th century)

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For peace from on high, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of
all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For all cities and villages and countries, for them that in faith dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For temperate weather, abundance of fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For them that travel by land, air, or water, for the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and captives, and for
their preservation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, violence, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Protect us, save us, have mercy upon us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

We commend ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

(Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

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Reflections on a Prayer

"I heard by chance of the existence of those English poets of the seventeenth century who are named metaphysical. I discovered the poem... called 'Love'. I learned it by heart. Often... I made myself say it over, concentrating all my attention upon it, and clinging with all my soul to the tenderness it enshrines. I used to think I was merely reciting it as a beautiful poem, but without my knowing it the recitation had the virtue of a prayer. It was during one of these recitations that, as I told you, Christ himself came down and took possession of me. Until last September I had never once prayed to God in all my life." (Simone Weil, 20th century)

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Trust

Though the fig tree do not blossom,
 nor fruit be on the vines,
 The produce of the olive fail
 and the fields yield no food,
 The flock be cut off from the fold
 and there be no herd in the stalls,
 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
 I will joy in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

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The Organ

At Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem is an old pipe organ with a unique history. Made in Germany 110 years ago, the organ traveled by ship in 1893 to Jaffa, a small port on the Mediterranean that was then part of the great Ottoman Empire. In service for more than a century, the pipe organ survived two World Wars and more than ten regional wars. In 1967 an Israeli bomb fell near it. In 1987 Israeli soldiers were firing within a few feet of it. And in 2002 Israeli tanks stood just outside of the sanctuary that houses it.

This organ saw the Ottomans ruling Bethlehem, then the British, the Jordanians, and the Israelis, as well as the Palestinian Authority. Most of these ruling authorities have come and gone, but the organ has

remained faithful, standing in its place in the balcony. It has been played during baptismal services, weddings, and funerals. It was always in solidarity with the Palestinian Christian community... like a faithful friend, in good times and bad, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer...

At a time when Palestine is still suffering from occupation, this organ (plays) new melodies—melodies of freedom and liberation. Freedom from sin, freedom from decadence, freedom to love even your enemy. And in the midst of suffering, the organ stands and bears witness... Our music and our singing is louder than a gun. And church bells in their ringing remind us we have won.

(Mitri Rahab in "Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble," Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2004)

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This issue of the Confessing Christ Lectionary is published in honor and in deep respect for the life and witness of Professor Willis Elliott, who was called to eternal life several weeks ago in retirement at Kearny, Nebraska. Willis inspired many of us by his wondrous knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and his passion for the life and witness of the United Church of Christ and of the Church catholic. Born in 1918, his long and remarkable life lifted the hearts and challenged the thought of his students at New York Theological Seminary and far beyond. Willis served on the staff of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and was a speaker at numerous forums and at various convocations related to the vital place of evangelism in the life of the Church. In a memorable essay entitled "What is the Scribal Mentality" (published in Volume 7 of "The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ"), he writes about Scripture "with its jungle manifolds of meaning, its rich and unsystematic imagery, its pulsating, untidy, and unfinished life" as vital to the shaping of authentic discipleship. A founder of the Craigville Colloquies and the Confessing Christ project in the UCC, he will be long remembered for his wisdom, his scholarship, his passion for evangelism and the mission of the Church. He was willing to "swim against the stream" which made his presence in our midst a treasure. He knew how to evoke a lively conversation and he delighted in debate. Many of us will remember forever the warmth and hospitality that Willis and his beautiful wife, Loree, offered to us at their retirement home at Craigville, Massachusetts where, each summer for more than 25 years, he engaged in "joyful and sincere theological work" for the sake of the life and mission of Christ's Church. (FRT, July, 2014)