



## Each Day

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*One of the following prayers or another prayer might be prayed for this church on each of the 50 days leading up to the assembly, beginning on June 29, 2009:*

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us the light of the Holy Spirit. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the light of that Spirit, that we might have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

*(Adapted from ELW Occasional Services for the Assembly, Opening of an Assembly.)*

*Or*

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church.

Fill it with all truth and peace.

Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it;

where in anything it is amiss, reform it;

where it is right, strengthen it; where it is divided, reunite it;

for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

*(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*

*Or*

Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit

and the wisdom which comes down from heaven,

that your Word may not be bound but have free course

and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people,

that in steadfast faith we may serve you

and in the confession of your name may abide to the end;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(Lutheran Book of Worship)*

## Each Week

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During the week, individually or in groups, take time to read the assigned scriptures that will form the daily lectionary at the Churchwide Assembly. Spend some time in reflection. Consider the listed questions specific to each of the weekly readings. You might also ask general questions such as the following as you reflect on all these texts:

- What is God up to in these texts, how do they show forth Christ? What do they say about God, us, and our world?
- How do these texts send us and equip our witness?
- As I hear these texts, what would I be concerned about or what person or situation might I see differently than I do now?

Conclude with the prayer listed for that week, which will also be used at the assembly, or another prayer. If you are in a group, consider singing the reflection hymn or another song together.



## **Week of August 9**

### **(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Sunday, August 23)**

#### **Word**

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

- What are the gods that compete for your life and the lives of our communities? What are some of the ways that “you and your household” serve the Lord? How has God supported, sustained and nourished you in this service?
- What are some of the spiritual battles or struggles in your life? What do you need from God to stand against these things?
- What unique or shared tools has God given you, your congregation and this church for declaring that Jesus is the “Holy One of God”? What impedes that proclamation? What frees it?

#### **Prayer**

Holy God,  
your Word feeds your people with life that is eternal.  
Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth,  
that, renouncing what is false and evil,  
we may live in you, through your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### **Reflection Hymn**

We Who Once Were Dead (*ELW* 495) *will be sung by the Churchwide Assembly. You might also sing*  
Thy Word Is a Lamp (*TFFB* 132) *or* Thy Strong Word (*ELW* 511).