THE DAY OF PENTECOST

**Pentecost**

Almighty, eternal, heavenly Father, who poured out your Holy Spirit upon your church, that he may abide with it forever, preserving it in the true faith of your Holy Word, and enlightening it with the knowledge of Jesus Christ, grant us, as we now call upon your Name, all things as may be necessary for our salvation.

We thank you, O God, that by your Spirit we have been called to faith in Jesus Christ, given power to believe your Word, and gathered into the fellowship of your holy church. Sanctify us that we, purged of our sins and unrighteousness, may be prepared for the Master's service and equipped for good works.

To this end aid us, by the witness of your Spirit, to know more deeply and truly the Holy Scriptures that we may become increasingly wise of our salvation, and help us to continue in their teachings. Enable us to reject the vanity of this world, and to follow with all who serve you in purity of heart, the things that make for righteousness, faith, charity, and peace. Kindle in us a fervent desire for all that is good, all that is holy, all that is true. Send your Spirit upon us, that we may love Jesus Christ our Savior with all our hearts and minds, keep his words with a good conscience, and find in each day the blessed experience of his nearness and abiding presence.

Let the sanctifying wisdom and power of the eternal Comforter descend upon your church, that it may be strong in faith. Impart the seven-fold gifts of grace, that the church elders may have bright hopes of the time when the earth shall be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters that cover the sea.

Stir up your church, O Lord, and imbue it with zeal to seek the lost, to bind up the broken-hearted, to bring comfort to the imprisoned, to heal the afflicted, and to cheer all that mourn.

Give your Spirit a place in all homes, that he may lead every child who trusts in your Name into the paths of love and obedience. Endow every parent with an understanding heart and gentle ways, so that together each family may adorn the doctrine of our Savior with godliness and honor.

Govern the nations upon the earth, and help them to acknowledge your power, dominion, and righteous judgment, so that they may turn from their evil ways and live in you.

Give our land and all in authority firmness in the right and steadfastness in integrity, and be our Shield and protector.

To all in trial or tribulation, the sick, the weary, the oppressed, the fearful, the needy, and the lonely, give the peace of Christ. Let their cry come before you and grant them all the things they need. These things we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

PENTECOST

**Monday**

Almighty and everlasting God, who sent your Holy Spirit to testify to the truth that is in Christ Jesus, endow your church with divine power and sanctify your people now as they come to you in prayer.

We praise you for the most sublime and marvelous gift of light through the Holy Ghost. We thank you for his inspiration of the prophets and the apostles. Grant that we may give heed to their witness, and that as Christ's words were your words, so their words may also be to us your words, and that we may continue steadfastly in their doctrine, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

We thank you for the Spirit's preservation of the Holy Scriptures, which, remaining forever unbroken, are a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. May they so flourish in the world that new multitudes in this generation and those to come may embrace their truth and trust in the Savior who promises everlasting life to all who come to you through him.

We thank you for the burning zeal your Spirit has given your chosen servants to spread your Gospel throughout the nations. Grant us that same passion, so that people everywhere may sing your praises and rejoice in your salvation.

We pray O God, that you would always direct and rule our lives, so that we may increase daily in the knowledge and love of you and of your Son Jesus Christ. By your Spirit's influence bring us to true faith, sincere repentance and sorrow for our sins, and to abiding peace and comfort in the knowledge of Christ's saving grace. Kindle within us a hearty desire for all that is right, pure, just, and holy. Sanctify us in body and soul, that as temples of your Spirit, we may be loyal to our Savior, faithful to his church, and steadfast in the works of love and mercy.

O heavenly Father, Light and Life immortal, let the radiant beams of your glory lighten the darkness of this world. Make the hearts of all people in all lands your dwelling place.

Grant preeminence to your Word and truth throughout the world. Teach us your way and let us walk in your fear. Help us to live in holiness, and save us from all unrighteousness. Bestow upon us the spirit of reverence, of mercy, of kindness, of peace, and of good will.

May the blessed Comforter and Counselor be with those among us who are passing through dark valleys and deep waters, that they may find in you the strength of their life and their portion forever. O God, be the Guardian of all in danger, the Companion of all in loneliness, the Power of all in temptation, the Solace of all in sorrow, the Hope of all who despair, the Health of all who are sick, and the Friend of all who are friendless. Fill us with your Holy Spirit for Jesus' sake. In his Name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

**Trinity Sunday**

O God, Fountain of all our blessings from everlasting to everlasting, and who dwells in majesty, honor, and glory as the most blessed Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

We thank you for the rays of divine light by which we have come to know you, and for the wondrous mercy by which we have come to love you. We give thanks that you the one true triune Godhead: eternal, immortal, invisible, in whom we live and move and have our being.

We bless you, almighty Father. Your glory fills the heavens and you cover yourself with light as with a garment; you made all things and laid the foundations of the earth. Your judgments and decrees in the whole universe declare and show forth your power and glory. O Lord, how numerous are your works; in wisdom you made them all.

We worship you, O Christ, the only-begotten Son of the Father. Thou were lifted up to draw all people unto you, that whosoever believes in you should not perish but have everlasting life; you have been exalted to the right hand of the Father and been given a Name which is above every name; you have been given a kingdom which cannot be moved, and now live to make intercession for your people. O Lord, your mercy is great; in love you have ransomed and redeemed us.

We praise you, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth, who has called us by the Gospel and has led us into all truth. You gathered us into your church and sanctified us by your grace. You have empowered our inner selves and refreshed our minds with a renewed spirit. O Lord and Giver of life, how marvelous are your gifts: in grace you give them all.

We pray, almighty God, that we may be enriched from the treasures of your wisdom and knowledge. Open to us the Holy Scriptures, that we may grow in the understanding of your will, render to you a more acceptable service, and attain a more perfect love and obedience. Grant us new birth into your eternal kingdom and save us by the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Because your judgments are beyond the understanding our sinful minds and your ways are more complex than our ability to know, we do not ask to see the distant scene of the unveiled future, but only to have more faith in you, O God. Grant us, therefore, a pure and inward vision of Jesus our Savior, so that we may know your glory, that you are a God of love and mercy, and of grace and truth, grant that we may trust wholly and only in you for all things in all times and in all places.

Abide with your church, O Lord, and make its people and pastors diligent in the mission in which you have directed it. Cleanse your church of error, weakness, and disobedience, and purify it in faith and all good works.

Strengthen your truth in our faltering hands, and give us a lively hope in your bountiful promises. Grant us, through the merits of Jesus Christ, the remission of all our sins, and preserve us unto the coming of your heavenly kingdom, when we shall see you face to face and our faith shall be perfected in your heavenly knowledge. In the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**First Sunday**

O Lord God, King eternal, of whom, through whom, and in whom are all things, both in heaven and earth, and who in the trinity of your Godhead are one God, one Lord, one Sovereign, and who upholds all things by the Word of your power:

We give you our most heartfelt thanks for the multitude of your mercies which you have so graciously showered upon us. Grant that we may always be mindful of the magnificence of your gifts and the vast ocean of your love and kindness.

For this world: for its beauty and its life, for the seasons and for the harvest, for the resources of the earth and the abundance of the sea, for love and friendship, for home and family, for land and government, and for all the wholesome gifts of society, for the wondrous endowments of body and mind, for strength and growth, for skills and senses, for reason and intelligence, for vision and imagination, for memory and reflection, for health and healing, for all these, O God, we give you our thanks and praise.

Most of all, we thank you for your great love and for the priceless gifts which you have given in Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, whom you sent for our salvation. For the forgiveness of our sins through him, for our deliverance by his power from the dominion of death and the devil, and for the promise of life everlasting, we thank you.

Grant, O Lord, that our spirits may be lifted up to you in thanksgiving, and that we may love you with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might. As you first loved us, so let us love you, your Word, and your law. Teach us to set you always before us and to walk as obedient children in your holy commandments. As we wrestle against the powers of spiritual darkness in all our temptations, give us the strength and the moral courage we need to win in the victory of faith. Help us to meet every test of our love and faithfulness and save us by your mercy.

As you anointed your church with the Holy Ghost and with power, help the church everywhere throughout the world, amongst all peoples and tongues, to declare your wonderful works, so that multitudes may come to your light.

Look in mercy upon the nations of the world and grant them your peace. We especially beseech you that you bless our own land. Give the spirit of wisdom and understanding to all who rule over us. Banish all vain ambition and love of power and luxury. In scenes of want and wrong and in the haunts of strife and fear, let your Spirit prevail, that all people may live in Christian love, bearing one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Upon all our homes let the sunshine of your love descend, and grant that our children may be reared in thankful devotion to you and that they may walk in your praise all of their days.

We entreat you, O loving Father, for your mercy and grace upon all who face adversity or trial. Be the Health of the sick, the Joy of the sorrowing, the Staff of the aged, the Companion of the lonely, and the Strength of the weak. Grant us all these petitions, O Lord, and whatsoever we may ask in the depths of our own hearts, for the sake of him who died that we might ever live unto you. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Second Sunday**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who is our Strength and Stay, upholding all creation by your power, sustaining the earth and all who dwell in it by your love, and enlightening the hearts of your children by your truth, grant us your fear and love, that we, walking in your heavenly precepts, may attain the beginning of all true wisdom.

Father, we thank you for the manifestation of your majesty in all the universe, in which we see your infinite power, and in which we discern your wisdom. Give us, we pray, ears to hear the music of your creation and eyes to see the wonders of your glory.

We praise you for the revelation of yourself in your law, in which you teach us your holy will and by which you govern the world. Grant that it may instruct us in righteousness, that we may give heed to its commandments, and that we may not fall under its judgments.

We bless you for the visions of the prophets, for through them you unveiled your grace and gave us great and precious promises. We beseech you to bestow upon us your Spirit, that we may grow in the knowledge of you and be comforted by your faithfulness in the fulfillment of your Word.

We especially acknowledge your love in bringing us from death into life by the atoning sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, your Son, and by the power of his resurrection. Give us, O Father, the spirit of your love, that, loving you above all earthly things, we may also love our fellow people in deed and in truth. Wherever any people be in want or need, give us compassionate hearts to share what you have given us, and grant that they, seeing our love, may live to glorify you.

We thank you that in the merits and mercies of Christ our Lord you have prepared for us the Great Supper of salvation, and through the preaching of the Gospel have bidden all to come and partake and to break bread in your kingdom. We pray that your church may faithfully bring your invitation to all nations and that many may respond with ready and willing hearts. Send the church’s messengers forth to invite those in the streets and lanes of the city and those on the highways of life, the poor, the abused, the disabled, the weak and the erring, the sorrowful and the troubled, that they may taste of your Supper and see that you are merciful and good.

Lord God of hosts, rule over our nation and sanctify all to whom you have granted authority. Refine our society by giving it purity of motive, nobleness of purpose, and strength of character. Grant that our destiny may always be to live in your trust and obedience.

Bless our homes, that they may be schools of true wisdom and harbors of true love, and that all who abide there may find peace and joy in harmony with you and one another.

We ask your special guidance, protection, and comfort for the sick and the sorrowful, the aged and the lonely. Tenderly bestow upon them your mercy and show them what great things you have prepared for your children.

Hear our prayer, O Father, and if there be anything else we should have asked, grant it unto us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Intercessor. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Third Sunday**

O Lord, our God, our Strength and our Joy, who, by delivering Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, to the death of the cross and raising him into glory, brought us life and immortality:

We praise you for your infinite mercies. In the gifts of our being, our spiritual nature with all its varied capacities, and our physical nature with all its capabilities of activity and enjoyment, you, having made us in your image and for your purpose, have been infinitely good, and we thank you. In the gifts of our human relationships, giving us parents, community, and companions in every walk of life so that we are not alone, you have been mercifully kind, and we thank you. In the gifts of our abode in this rich and beautiful dwelling place of our earthly habitation, and in the heavenly canopy of the infinite starry universe, you have been abundantly gracious, and we glorify you.

But greater than all this goodness is your mercy in Jesus Christ, in whom you provided for us the full remission of all our sins, however great they may be, the strength to overcome all evil and win the victory in temptation, and the power of an endless life.

Grant, dear Father, that as there is joy in the presence of your angels over one sinner that repents, we may confess our transgressions before you, repent of them, hate them, and forsake them. Forgive us our iniquity. Turn your anger away, and comfort us with your compassion. Help us to be vigilant against temptation to sin and in all trials of our faith, that as we steadfastly resist the vanity of this world, we may be protected from all evil.

Give the riches of grace to your church, O God, so that it may seek the lost, raise the fallen, comfort the broken-hearted, and heal the afflicted. Enable all pastors and missionaries to proclaim with courage and understanding all the words of life which the Lord has given, and to declare your mighty deeds of judgment and mercy.

Lift high your banner over all lands and nations, and let it be known that you are in the midst of all history, life, and movement, that you sit in the councils of nations, that your eye is in every place beholding the evil and the good, and that according to your good pleasure you break the bow, cut the spear, and burn the chariot in the fire. Grant that all eyes may turn toward you and find your truth.

Be the heavenly Guest in all our homes and move the hearts of all who dwell there to trust wholly in you and to have a perfect love toward each other, until the day when you will call us from our earthly homes to live together with thee in heaven.

Bless all who are in any need of body or soul, and grant that they may humble themselves under your mighty hand, so that you may exalt them in due time. Lead them to cast all their burdens on you and assure them of your infinite and understanding care.

O God of all grace, who called us into eternal glory by the mercies of Christ, strengthen, chasten, renew, and perfect us. Hear our prayer in the Name of Jesus, to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Fourth Sunday**

O God, King eternal, who made the seven stars and Orion and turns the shadow of earth into the morning of life, who is our light, our salvation, and our portion forever: We, your children, seek you now in prayer, and ask you to rest your hand in benediction upon us.

Bless us, O Lord, with such faith in your Son Jesus Christ that we may believe in him with all our hearts, and, trusting in his merits, may have the assurance of everlasting life. Bless us, from the fountain of your love, with the gracious water of life and the washing of renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Keep us always within your care. As your glorious creation has been marred by humanity's sinfulness and lies in travail under the shadow of your judgment, defend us in all times of danger and save us in every peril. From earthquake and storm, from hatred and war, from tyranny and persecution, from famine and plague, and from corruption and rebellion, deliver us.

Keep us securely within your grace, O Lord, that, by reason of our sins and frailty, we may never depart from you. Help us to grow in grace now in the time of our vigor, and in the hour of our death preserve us in the true faith of your holy Name. Grant that we may have inheritance with all your children and know the joys of your adoption in the redemption of our bodies and the resurrection into life eternal.

Make your face to shine upon your church that, through its labor, the light of your truth may shine in all the world, that your way may be known upon earth and your saving health among all nations. Let the church’s stewards bear your Name in all godliness and purity and give your people gladness in your true service.

Stretch forth your arm over our land, that your power and glory may be seen from shore to shore, in the stately halls of government, in the busy precincts of commerce, in the classroom and on the farm, and in the minds and hearts of people of whatever dignity or position in life, that our people may repent and that our land may know that you are Lord over all and that you give your glory to no other.

Be gracious to all our families, that our children may grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humanity. To this end give your Spirit to our parents, that they may be endowed with Christian ideals and live in obedience to Christ's commandments.

Lift up your countenance, O Lord, upon all who suffer sickness or sorrow, the infirmities of age or the weariness of toil, separation from loved ones or uncertainty in decision, misunderstanding or bitterness, or any other adversity, and grant them your peace. Show yourself to them as a very present help in time of need, giving them wisdom and understanding, wholeness of mind and body, courage and hope.

These petitions we bring to you, O Lord, and ask all things for Christ's sake. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Fifth Sunday**

O Lord of all power and grace, whose eyes are on the righteous and whose ears are open to their cry, hear the prayers of your people as we come to you now in thankfulness for the mercies which you pour down upon us anew each day.

We thank you for the gifts of your mighty providence and the daily and manifold miracle of providing for the needs of all creatures great and small, opening your hand and giving them their provisions in due season. Make us mindful, O Lord, that you are the Source of the daily bread of all living things, as you have provided them with life, breath, and being.

We praise you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be the Savior of the world. Grant that we may believe in him with all our hearts, learning from him the great truths of the kingdom to which he bore faithful witness. Help us to obey his commandments with a pure mind, to love him with a true heart, and to serve him with a willing spirit.

We remember before you, O Lord, our great sinfulness. We repent our iniquity. Consume us not in your wrath, but out of your great compassion forgive us, that we may know the joy of your salvation and live every day in praise to you.

Grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may produce the fruits of righteousness. May he endow us with unwavering faith, so that we are ready always to do your will. Through your Spirit add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness Christian kindness, and to Christian kindness love.

Multiply grace, peace, and all spiritual knowledge in your church. Raise up a ministry that will seek souls for salvation, willing to forsake all selfish concerns and follow your Son wherever he may lead. Give unity of heart and spirit to your people, O God, that they may inherit your blessing and not come under your judgment, let them manifest the Spirit of Christ in all things. Defend and preserve your servants wherever they may be suffering for your Name's sake, and replenish them in faith, strength, and courage by the graces of your Son.

For the nations of the earth we pray. Subdue terror and tyranny everywhere and call forth leaders who shall acknowledge that you are Lord over all the earth. Bless our own land. May it always follow that which is good and forsake all that is wicked, that our people may prosper in uprightness and integrity.

Hear, O Lord, when we cry to you on behalf of the afflicted. Grant them help in body and soul and save them for your mercy's sake. As we are but pilgrims in the world, guide and uphold us, and bring us all in due time to our heavenly home.

Receive now these petitions in the Name of the Prince of Life, Jesus, our dear Lord. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Sixth Sunday**

O Lord, from whom all goodness flows, holy are your, and holy is your Name. Heaven and earth are full of your glory: all the stars, the suns and satellites of space, the marvelous structure of the atom and the mysterious infinity of the universe, all energies and all forces, the sea and the clouds, the thunder and the lightning, the earth and its life, are your servants, and are messengers to us of your wonder and might. The sky reveals your craftsmanship, each day speaks and every night imparts your knowledge. In the unseen, we witness the evidence of your everlasting power and divine nature.

We thank you, O Father, that we have the certain word of light and truth in the Holy Scriptures, through which you give us the testimony of the holy prophets and apostles. Grant that by your grace their God may be our God, their love of divine truth our love, and their fellowship with your people our fellowship.

Most especially we thank you for the voice and witness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior.

O best Gift of heaven, who in your birth took upon yourself our flesh, and who in your death took upon yourself our sins, give us your Word and Truth and all the mercies of your sacrifice, that we, being baptized into your death and resurrection may be raised to newness of life. Enable us by your power to crucify the temptations of the flesh, to put away all hatred and bitterness, to overcome all sinful habits, and to be born again in the Spirit and to live for you alone.

O Spirit of the living God, who created the church, by your gracious power embolden your church’s mission in faith and life. Grant that your pastors and missionaries, deacons and vicars, ordained and lay leaders may bring to your altars all the fruits of righteousness and show forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Give the Light of life, O Lord God, to the nations of the earth, that they may put away sin, acknowledge your Son Jesus as Lord and Savior, and walk before you in obedience and faith. Endow our own country with leaders whose consciences are attuned to your voice of justice and citizens whose wills are fixed on doing your will.

Bless all who are in need of your mighty aid. We especially pray for our sick and all who may be in bodily or mental anguish. Grant them the balm of your love and show them what great things you have prepared for all who love you.

O God, Creator, King, and Spirit, help us now in the days of our flesh to lighten by every Christian virtue the place in life to which you have called us, and in the time of our death preserve us for your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Seventh Sunday**

Holy and immortal God, who covers yourself with light as with a garment, and who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, who makes the clouds your chariot and who walks upon the wings of the wind: In humility of soul we give you thanks and praise for your unending kindness.

We thank you that you have so bountifully given to the world its daily bread, providing the rich earth with wonders untold, the seed whose powers unfold in abundant harvest with the light and the air, and the dew and the rain to make fruitful the labors of the farmers.

We especially thank you that in your ineffable love you have provided for our soul's hunger in the gift of the Bread from heaven, Jesus Christ, your Son. Grant, O Father, that we may believe in him with all our hearts and find the joys and satisfactions of this heavenly Food.

O Lord, we hunger for spiritual knowledge: Give us faith so that, as in Christ’s days on this earth people witnessed in him the brightness of your glory, we may also find in him the riches of divine wisdom and heavenly knowledge.

Our souls yearn for truth: Lead us to his heavenly word and doctrine, that we may find there the great and sublime truths of your holy will. We cry for forgiveness and pardon: Turn us to him, who was bruised for our iniquities and wounded for our transgressions that by his sacrifice we may be cleansed, healed, and forgiven.

Our souls crave for life: As your unfathomable gift to us is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, feed us on this Bread of Immortality, that we may know the power of his resurrection.

O God, grant that we may also find in him the strength we do not find in ourselves: the power to uphold us in the toil and the conflict of this earthly life, and therefore to live for you alone with the resolution to do your will so that we may be your true and faithful servants with the will to overcome our sins and yield ourselves to righteousness and holiness. Nourish us by your grace that we may find our labor sweet and our work welcome and all our necessities of soul and spirit supplied.

Set guardians over your church who shall pray without ceasing for the prosperity of the Gospel in all lands and nations, preach your holy Word with all boldness, prepare your people for the time when our Lord Jesus shall return to the earth, and present unto you on the last day a holy and redeemed church.

We have reflected upon your loving-kindness to our own country, and we thank you for the good you have given us. Give strength to all the forces of righteousness in our midst and overthrow all the powers of evil. Be to us always our Sword and Shield.

Be the Helper of all our families. Implant your Word in the hearts of our children and your love in our parents, so that they may enjoy now and forever the fruits of holiness.

Free the afflicted from their troubles and bind them to you, so that they may have abundant life, and live to serve and praise you.

You who sees us as we are, who knows our bodies and remembers that we are dust, as we go from this holy place, by your great mercy empower us in faith, hope, and love, that today and every day we may live as your children in your presence; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Eighth Sunday**

O heavenly Father, who through your Son created all things that are in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, principalities or powers, giving him authority over all: We thank you that through him we have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we may truly know you as our Father, call upon you in prayer, and be assured that we will be heard as your children.

Father, for your church and your people we pray. Grant them ministers and teachers who are counseled and led by your Spirit, and who earnestly hold forth the Word of life, diligently gather your children, and teach them all the things which our Lord has commanded. From all false prophets and deceitful guides save them, that they, being knit together in love, may stand fast in one spirit, and with one mind strive together for the faith of the Gospel.

Declare your glory, O Father, among all nations, and send forth your messengers to open the eyes of the unbelieving, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to Christ, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance with all the children of God. Look with favor upon our own land, that true liberty, perfect justice, and pure morals may prevail in every part of our society, and that all ungodliness and wicked works may be destroyed.

Father, let your Spirit descend upon our homes. Let the Word of Christ in all wisdom dwell richly in the children, and grant that all parents may be worthy examples of true Christian virtues. Shelter them in every storm and preserve them from all evil.

As you, dear Father, sent your Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life, keep us by your mighty power blameless in the midst of a perverse world, so that we may attain the crown of life. Grant that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will, be fruitful in every good work, and be strengthened in the patience of faith. Help us to subdue the temptations of the flesh and to live in the Spirit, setting our affection on the things above.

O Father, from whom all good counsels and just works proceed, give your children who may be enduring pain, sickness, the threat of disease, mental or spiritual anguish, or any other adversity of the body or soul, such an assurance of your love and mercy that they may commit themselves wholly into your care and receive from you all things necessary for their salvation.

Now, heavenly Father, as you have called us by your Word to let our requests be made known with thanksgiving in prayer and supplication to you, we come to you in loving gratitude and trust, offering these petitions in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Ninth Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, who searches all hearts and knows all thoughts, whose eyes are in every place, beholding the evil and the good, grant us now as we approach the throne of your grace, true humility and penitence. We entreat you, remember not the sins of our youth or our manifold transgressions, but according unto your tender mercies, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, pardon our iniquity.

By the indwelling of thy Holy Spirit, save us from lusting after evil things, from idolatry, from immorality, from unbelief, or other great and shameful sins; and grant us such steadfast faith that in whatever trials we undergo, we do not test your tolerance by murmuring, complaint, or doubt. Lead us not into temptation, but if you see fit, strengthen us by your power to withstand it overrule it, that we may be delivered from the reach of the tempter's arm.

Grant us true understanding of your Word, so that we may be guided in all judgment, and be shown the way that leads to everlasting life. Keep before our eyes the warning and admonition of the Holy Scriptures. Enable us to learn by the examples set forth in your holy Word what things we ought to do and what things you have forbidden, and help us to obey your commandments with joy.

We thank you for all your blessings. Help us to use with faithful stewardship all that you have bestowed upon us, being heartily grateful for your unfailing goodness, and deeply conscious that you will call us one day to give an account of our stewardship.

O Lord, remember the covenant you made with your pilgrim church and with your people. Provide for them pastors and teachers who will lead them to the spiritual Rock, Jesus Christ, that they may drink from the living Fountain the pure water of eternal life. Preserve them from all who would beguile them with false words, and keep them from all heresy, schism, or false religion.

Glorify your Name in all the earth and send forth people to proclaim the Gospel with wisdom, love, and boldness, so that multitudes out of every nation shall call upon your Name and be saved.

As righteousness exalts a nation, but sin brings your reproach, keep our country and people within your care, that honor and honesty, truth and integrity, may be upheld and that all lawlessness, wickedness, and rebellion may be put down. Especially we ask for your favor upon all who bear responsibility for our government, that they may be endowed with wisdom to govern with your perfect justice.

Guard and defend our homes, that parents may be kept in the bonds of love and godliness, and may raise their children well, nourishing them in truth and righteousness.

We pray for all who may be ill in body, mind, or spirit, for all who may be in danger of body or soul, for all who may be in anxiety or perplexity, for all who may be suffering from disappointment or defeat, be present with them in their affliction, show them the way out of all their troubles, and save them for your mercy's sake.

Heavenly Father, who did not spare your Son but freely delivered him up for us all, mercifully grant these and all other acceptable petitions which you read in our hearts, in his Name. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Tenth Sunday**

O God, our God, by whose Spirit all things are ordered in your kingdom, so that if anything be done, it is you who has done it, if anything is given, it is you who has given it, or if anything be withheld, it is you who has withheld it: Mercifully hear our prayer, and pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may draw near to you in the true beauty of holiness.

Grant through your Holy Spirit that your Word may come to your church, that your people may hear it from Christ-like teachers with the ears of faith, and, turning to you in the fullness of love and trust, may know your will, repent of their transgressions and iniquities, and amend their ways by obedience to your commandments.

By your Spirit help your church to confess unceasingly and proclaim unwaveringly that Jesus is Lord, and that he who by his bitter suffering and death redeemed us from all sin, sits at the right hand of your power, having authority over all things in heaven and earth, and that he shall reign until all enemies are under his feet.

Give, by your Spirit, all such diverse spiritual gifts as are necessary to the witness and work of your church, so that there may always be abundant wisdom and knowledge, faith and healing, prophecy and miracles, judgment and tongues. May your light go forth, and may people of every nation, kindred, language, or realm learn of your glory.

Grant by the same Spirit that your house may always be a house of prayer for all people. Cleanse it of all unrighteousness, that it may be a fit abode where your honor dwells, your Name is hallowed, and your Word is taught.

Keep the nations of the earth in peace and tranquility and turn the hearts of all from war and wickedness. We especially ask you to bless our own land and all who rule over us, that our liberties may be preserved and our laws upheld, that injustice may be suppressed and lawlessness punished. Grant that goodness may be honored and labor enjoyed, that licentiousness may be despised and hatred abhorred.

May the words of our Lord Jesus be taught daily in all homes, that both parents and children may grow in grace through the knowledge of him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Bestow your favor upon all useful labor in industry and agriculture, education and science, the professions and the arts, that in their advancement your people may prosper.

Look in mercy upon the sick and the hurt, those who sorrow or mourn, the disabled and the infirm, and hear their cry. Let the healing powers of your love come to them, so that they may turn to you in praise and thanksgiving and bless your holy Name.

These and all other prayers, hear, O Lord, and grant for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom is contained all the treasures of heaven. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Eleventh Sunday**

O Lord God, who mercy and truth keeps his covenant and testimonies, and whose secret is with those who fear you, incline your ear to us and hear our prayer, which we bring to you, not in our own name or righteousness, but in the Name and by the merits of Jesus Christ.

We praise you for the glorious Gospel of your grace, whereby, according to your ancient and faithful promises, you sent your Son, who died for our sins and rose again on the third day, that we through him might be saved.

We thank you for the apostolic witness of Christ's resurrection and for making known to us his power and coming, that since we love and believe in him despite not having seen him with our own eyes, we may rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory and receive the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

Grant that we may ever stand steadfastly in faith, repent most earnestly of our sinfulness, turn to you for your forgiveness, and be purged of all iniquity. Give us true humility of spirit. Enable us by your grace to escape the corruption that is in the world. Grant that we be neither barren nor unfruitful in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Bestow the Holy Spirit upon your church, O Lord, that it may go forth into all the world bearing your precious Gospel and preaching Jesus Christ among all nations for the remission of sins and the hope of eternal life. Save your church from all its enemies, evil workers, and perverters of the truth, that it may know no other Gospel than that which was once delivered.

We pray for our country and beseech you, by your mercy, to give us executive, legislative, and judicial leaders who shall give heed to your commandments, uphold and foster all good, oppose and punish all that is evil, that all our people may live in peace, safety, and honor.

Pour out your blessings upon our homes. Give mind and will to all parents to train up their children to know, love, and fear you, so that all may live together in peace, kindness, and understanding.

Hear the prayers of all the afflicted, the sorrowful and those who mourn, the needy and the homeless, the wounded and all in pain, the anxious and the despairing, and lead them by your mercy to a happy reprieve from all their adversities.

Deliver us, O God, from every evil, of body or soul, property or character, and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a happy end and take us from this world of sorrow to your kingdom in heaven. These and all other things necessary for us, grant us by your infinite mercy and grace in Jesus Christ, the Bright and Morning Star of our salvation. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twelfth Sunday**

O Lord, the Light of your people, the Salvation of your inheritance, and the saving Strength of your Anointed, we thank you for the gift of your Word and for the knowledge of your love which you wrote by hand in our hearts and in all your creation when you laid the foundation of all things. We praise you for the glorious declaration of your will when you engraved upon tablets of stone your holy and immutable will. But most especially we give you thanks for the more glorious revelation of your kingdom and of your grace in your Son Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, whom you commanded us to hear in faith and to obey in love.

Send forth your Word into our world today. Implant it in the hearts of your people, that they may be nourished and refreshed by the eternal and living Spring of heavenly vision and understanding, so that they, delivered by your mercy from the peril of ungodliness, the power of Satan, and the fear of death, may live to serve and praise you in righteousness and purity forever.

And as your Word, like a sword of living power, is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, let it probe us, showing us the evil and the good, that we, thus examined, may amend our ways, forsake our sins and not come under your judgment.

Let it be for us also a Lamp for our feet, that our way may be made sure and our path blessed with your abiding presence, so that we may be protected in every temptation and trial.

Pour out your Word abundantly upon the multitudes in every nation, that their eyes may be opened and their hearts turned from falsehood and error, idolatry and evil works, and every vain and corrupt practice. Open their ears to hear the words of your truth, that the day may dawn in their souls as light in a dark place, and that the daystar of spiritual knowledge may arise in their hearts.

Let your Word everywhere consume your enemies like fire, and, like the hammer that breaks the rock in pieces, let it destroy all oppression, tyranny, and every abominable thing.

Grant that your Gospel may be published throughout the length and breadth of our land, that all in every place may come to know Jesus Christ as the only Savior and Source of pardon for sins and hope for eternal life.

Let your Word shine within our homes, that parents and children may dwell together in love, serve one another in kindness, and find increase in joy in this life and that which is to come.

Give the Spirit of Christ richly to all who are sick or are suffering from any adversity of body or spirit, and grant that they may discover that he does all things well, turning our afflictions into divine blessings.

And since we are not sufficient by ourselves to win the victory of life, supply us through the grace of Jesus Christ with the power of your Spirit, that we may always be comforted by your truth and sustained by your love.

This we pray in the Name of him who gave himself for us that we might ever live through him, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Thirteenth Sunday**

Heavenly Father, eternal and almighty God, who through the blood of the everlasting covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ: Perfect us in every good work to do your will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight.

By your Holy Spirit work in us a true and living faith in you and in your Son whom you sent, that in your manifold goodness and mercy we may be found in him, not having our own righteousness, which is of your law, but that which is through the righteousness of Christ.

O God who is the Author of all good counsels and all holy desires, work in us such love toward you that we, loving you with all our hearts, may love our neighbor also. Through your Word and commandments help us in our earthly pilgrimage to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Grant that we may continually show compassion to the needy, honor all people, bear the infirmities of the weak, provide for all people things honest, and having fervent charity toward all. Help us never to render evil for evil or railing for railing, but rather respond with grace, knowing that is what you have called us to do, so that we may inherit your blessing.

Work in us such obedience to the example of our Lord Jesus Christ that we may refrain our tongues from evil and our lips that they speak no guile, that we may do good and shun evil, that we may seek peace and follow after it, that we may commit ourselves ever to you and to your tender care.

O Lord, move your church with gratitude for all your blessings, but most especially for the gift of its greatest treasure, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Send it forth out into the furthest parts of the earth to proclaim the good news of his salvation and prosper it in all its labors. Grant all in the ministry of the Word a true understanding, to all in the ministry of education a pure knowledge, to all in the ministry of mercy a loving compassion, and to all in the ministry of authority a holy wisdom.

Bless, we pray, our nation, that mercy and truth, honor and peace, may everywhere prevail. Give success to all who work for righteousness in our midst, and overthrow all who work iniquity, that we come not under your reproach and judgment.

In the sanctity of our homes let the Spirit of Jesus Christ come to strengthen all parents, that they may, by excellent example, encourage their children and youth in the practice of virtue, and lead them to usefulness in your service and in the service of their fellow people.

Let your benediction rest upon all in every good and useful employment and grant them contentment and due reward for all their endeavors. Help all who are working to see that whatsoever they do in word or deed, they are accountable to you.

Pour out your mercy upon all who are in trial or adversity, especially those who are suffering for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, and save them by your mighty power, that they may know that you art the true and only Sovereign, and your Son the true and only Savior.

Now, dear Father, for his sake forgive us our sins and cleanse us by his Word, giving us the hope and promise through him of life everlasting. In his Name. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Fourteenth Sunday**

O God, Lord of Hosts, by the great and living way of your Son Jesus Christ, we enter into your gates of prayer with thanksgiving and into your courts with praise.

We thank you for the declaration of your glory in all this vast and starry universe, in which all may read of your infinite power and wisdom. We praise you that you filled the earth with life and with riches so that all people, made in your image and endowed with great gifts of mind and hand, may, as you turn the wheel of the seasons and renew the face of the earth, harvest the fruit of his toil, find joy in the birth of each day, and rest in the peace of each night.

Most especially we thank you, O God, for the gift of your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, for his perfect revelation of you and all your will, for his holy example of true grace and mercy, and for his innocent suffering and death for our sins, that we through him might receive the remission of our sins, strength to overcome all evil, and, in his resurrection, the gift of everlasting life.

And as your commandments are a lamp to our feet, and your Gospel is pure light for our path we heartily give you thanks for your Word and the gift of your Holy Spirit, with which we may read with understanding, learn with a ready mind, and receive, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures, hope for time and eternity.

Grant that we may ever live in the Spirit so that, led and empowered by him, we may produce works in accordance with our true repentance, despising the bread of wickedness and the wine of violence, and follow righteousness, godliness, faith, and love, and finally in your everlasting kingdom receive the inheritance that you promised through your Son.

We pray for your church: Rule and direct it that it may prosper in the things where you have called it to service. Defend it against all error and confusion and preserve it in the true faith of your holy Name. Quicken it by your grace, that it may show forth your praises in every good work and bring to you the sacrifices of contrition and obedience.

Uphold in our land all that are in authority, that in the maintenance of law and order we may lead a quiet and peaceable life and serve you without hindrance.

Bless our homes and counsel our parents, that your teachings may not depart from our midst but be continued in the lives of their children. Guide our youth that they may keep their hearts with diligence, and in faith and purity find happiness in life.

We pray for all who must walk along the hard and stony path of affliction with sickness, suffering, or peril. Let their way be filled with light that shines more and more brightly leading toward a perfect day.

These and all the hidden yearnings of our souls, and any other thing we should have asked in your mercy, grant us for the sake of our Lord Jesus, who forever lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Fifteenth Sunday**

O God, living God, in whose tabernacle of providence the sparrow found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, the fields are arrayed in beauty with good things, and the pastures are clothed with flocks, we draw close to you in prayer with true and believing hearts.

We give you thanks and praise for all your goodness and mercies, but most heartily and earnestly we glorify you for the precious gift of your holy child Jesus, whom you sent to deliver us from the due reward of our transgressions, and by whose resurrection you secured for us the unfading crown of life.

Grant unto us, O Father, faith in your power and goodness, that we may ever trust you for all our daily needs and fulfill the duties of each day without fear and anxiety for the future, knowing that you act according to your Word all things in heaven and earth, and that you care for all your children.

Bestow your grace upon us so that we seek not the vanities of this world, nor the deceitfulness of riches, but rather set our highest affection and desire on the things that pertain to your kingdom and to the righteousness which is by faith and obedience. Open our minds to the understanding that our most precious treasure is the unfathomable riches of Christ, our most satisfying food the Bread of Life, and our most glorious dress the garment of heavenly virtues.

Let your Word dwell in us richly in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that in love and in the fulfillment of your commandment we may assist one another in our trials and infirmities.

And grant that in all our works of mercy we may have special regard for those of the household of faith. Endow your church and people with the spirit of humility and sympathy, so that the compassion of Christ may shine forth in love and kindness toward the fallen, the wayward, and the heavy laden, and strengthen your servants everywhere that they may not grow weary in well-doing.

Shed your light upon the nations, that all the ends of the world may remember and turn to you, and that all kindreds and peoples may worship you. Bless also our own land, that your reverence and truth may prevail in the councils of government and in the halls of commerce, industry, research, and education.

Through all of life's short day, help our families with your divine benediction and presence. Be with them in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, disappointment or success, and preserve them with your grace.

Forgive us our sins, and teach us, O Lord, that you are a God of holiness and power, who in righteousness and mercy rules the world and governs all humankind, and that in you we live and move and have our being. As we can do no good thing without you, strengthen us in body and soul by your Spirit, that we may sow the works of faith, love, and hope, and reap the blessed, joyful, and abundant life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Sixteenth Sunday**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom your whole family in heaven and earth is named, we worship you for your manifold wisdom, your mighty works, and your perfect holiness; but especially we praise you for our reconciliation to you through the sufferings and death of you dear Son, which you most awesomely purposed in eternity, that we through faith in him might enter with confidence into your presence and bring to you our prayers and petitions.

Out of the infinite bounty of your surpassing goodness grant unto us who stand in need of your help and mercy your spirit and grace. Bestow upon us the intelligence that leads to a due sense of your majesty and power and the holy fear which is the foundation of all true wisdom. Unfold to us your overflowing liberality by providing for the wants and necessities of this present life. Let your mercy descend upon us as the morning dew, giving us life and breath, health and contentment, and deliver us from every kind of danger to body or soul.

Above all we ask you to look upon our moral frailty and spiritual weakness, and the evil we have no power to remedy, and by your Holy Spirit to strengthen us inwardly by the gift of a true faith in Jesus Christ. Grant that he may be Lord of our lives, giving us the conviction of your pardon and acceptance, molding our wills to your will, purifying our emotions, quickening our consciences, and cleansing the springs and principles of our actions by dwelling in our hearts in faith and love.

Let the love of Christ, which exceeds all human knowledge, pervade your church, that being divinely created, it may thereby also flourish, bearing love for all fellow Christians, compassion for all in need, and forgiveness for all enemies. May it thus show forth the exceeding greatness of your love, which is as broad as all humanity, as long as eternity, as deep as any human need, and as lofty as the heaven of heavens.

Bestow upon the nations of the earth such knowledge of your glory, that they may turn to you, the only God, and your Son Jesus Christ, and find salvation. Grant also your favor upon this land, that multitudes within its borders may turn from evil and come to faith and be filled with all your fullness.

And as you are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us, increase your grace to us and enlarge our trust so that we will unfailingly come to you in prayer with believing hearts beseeching you for all our wants and needs, but especially for your mercy and deliverance. Give a special measure of your power to those who are in sorrow or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid. Although we have deserved your chastening and correction, help us to receive them with faith, knowing that you are in love preparing us for that joyful communion with you which is to be for all eternity.

These things and whatever else we should have asked but did not, we beseech of thee, O God, through our Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Seventeenth Sunday**

O God and Father, loving Creator of all things in heaven and earth, who rules over all, the supreme and only Sovereign, who contains all ruling and sustaining power, and is for every one of us the savior: We bow in prayer before you and offer you our collective prayers.

Impart to us, for the sake of your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, pardon for all our sins and deliverance from the just recompense of our transgressions. By your power rescue us in temptation from the threatening perils of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and protect us from all danger to our souls.

And as we are unable by our own reason or strength to walk worthily in the faith to which you called us, or to bear honorably the Name of Christ, or to render dutifully the obedience which you command, pour out upon us your Holy Spirit, that we may have those virtues which are pleasing in your sight. For our stubbornness and self-will, bestow upon us submission to your will; for our pride and conceit, endow us with humility; for our complaining and vengeful spirits, give us the spirit of meekness; for our resentment and anger, grant us patience. Help us by your grace to bear in love each other's faults and infirmities, to serve one another in charity and kindness, and to bless those who may seek to harm us.

Look in mercy upon your church, O God, and grant that it may keep in peace and love the unity which you give and for which our Lord prayed. Produce in it an abiding sense of its oneness in faith in Christ, in repentance for sin, in knowledge of your doctrine, and in obedience to the revelation which you provided for us in your Word. May your church manifest this unity before all the world, that all men in every place may learn of our one and only Lord Jesus Christ, receive his redemption and the gift in him of everlasting life.

Bless our nation, that throughout the length and breadth of the land its people may worship and serve you in spirit and in truth, and grant it your counsel and aid, that it may be preserved in peace.

Be a present Guardian of all our families, and enable all parents to give wise advice, spiritual admonition, and a wholesome example to their children, that in obedience to words fitly spoken they may be edified and strengthened for usefulness and service to you and to all their fellow people.

Set your healing powers to work in the sick and all the afflicted. Hear their cry and remember them in your mercy, upholding them by the comforting power of your Spirit. Show yourself to them in a very present help, the Savior of all humanity and especially those who believe, and increase their trust in you, through the love of your Son Jesus Christ, in whose glorious Name we offer these and all other worthy petitions which you see in our hearts. Amen.

 Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Eighteenth Sunday**

O Lord God, who is always faithful, and who has not failed in one word of all your exceedingly great and precious promises, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ your Son, and for all the promised graces we have received through him: that in the brightness of his glory we have received knowledge of your own glory; that in the truth, goodness, and tenderness embodied in him we have learned your will; that in his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing pardon for all our sins; that in his resurrection we have the earnest promise of life everlasting; and that in his ascension to the right hand of majesty we have the assurance of his intercession for our every necessity.

Help us that we may so heartily believe and trust in him, and so truly love and serve him, that in all thought, speech, and action we may manifest his Spirit. From the infinite riches of his grace, from the heavenly treasure of his merits, bestow upon us every gift necessary to renew us in spirit, soul, and mind, and fill us with all the fulness of his love. And, that we may become partakers of your promise in him and be found at his coming worthy to bear the crown of life, increase in us the measure of faith and rebuke our self-reliance; deepen our hope and subdue our self-indulgence; enlarge our sympathies and chasten our self-love; and confirm us in his testimony unto our end.

Preserve your church, dear God, from false or faithless teachers, and keep it obedient and steadfast in all that you have made known in the Holy Scriptures. Grant it the refreshing of your Spirit, that in fellowship with Jesus Christ all may proclaim your truth with living power, preach your Gospel in all the world, and minister in love to the needs of people everywhere.

Grant the nations of the earth peace and tranquility, that their people may live without fear or want. Enlighten them by the rays of your love, and preserve them from oppression, wrong, and cruelty.

Support our own land in righteousness and overthrow all wickedness. As there is no abiding strength in material prosperity, preserve us from the decay of moral corruption, and raise up people of holy courage and conscience to warn and admonish us. Protect us against every peril from within and without and give us your blessing.

Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered around you, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity shall be able to daunt them, or take from them the conviction that you are their Helper in time of need.

O God, who will ever strengthen the bruised reed, turn the afflictions of the weary and sick into their teachers, and the tears of the troubled and sorrowful into their instructors, that in all their necessities they may learn divine wisdom and knowledge, and thus be led to look to you who is the unfailing Spring of all healing and hope.

All these things, and whatsoever else we should have asked, we pray in the Name of him who is your only begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Nineteenth Sunday**

O Lord God, heavenly Father, who is always in our midst, and never leaves or forsakes us, we praise and glorify you for the infinite mercy which you manifested in the unsurpassed gift to us sinners of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to put away our sins by the sacrifice of himself upon the cross, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We thank you, O Father, for in this way commending your love to us, delivering us from the power of sin and death, and opening to us the gate of heaven.

We confess that we are most unworthy sinners, and that we have transgressed more than we can know against your will and Word. We repent of our evil and pray that you give us such faith that we may trust utterly in the righteousness of Christ Jesus for our forgiveness. Pardon our iniquity and in Christ cast all our sins into the depths of the sea of oblivion.

Grant that, by your truth, our minds may be renewed in righteousness and true holiness, that our consciences may be stirred to discern and choose the good, and that every thought, word, and deed may be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Give us the will and the power to walk in your paths and live in harmony with your Word. Endow us with grace so that we may be transformed in character, constant in faith, patient in tribulation, and instant in prayer.

Fill your church with your Spirit so that it may have a power, a knowledge, and a wisdom that are above all mere human ingenuity and intellect. Give it great moral conviction, a quickened conscience, and an unshakeable sympathy with all that is pure, all that is holy, all that is true, all that is good. Give unto your ministers and teachers the fidelity, courage, and zeal of true prophets, that your people may be built up in faith and works, rejoice in your love, endure in patience every trial, and finally enter your kingdom by way of him who is the heavenly Ladder, Jesus Christ.

Let the blessings of your truth and love stream forth upon the nations, and let them receive all your revelation in repentance and faith, so that they may be delivered from the barrenness of falsehood and the wastes of godlessness, and go instead to the house of God in worship and praise.

We pray for our own beloved country. Give us citizens who perceive that the standard of all that is right is not personal advancement or private favor, not public opinion or party platform, but your holy will. Give us civil servants who are worthy of honor, and leaders in business and labor who are unselfish and far-sighted, and who are guided by the public good and respect for each person's God-given dignity.

Lavish your grace upon all families, that each home may, by the Christian love and character there lived, be for the children a foretaste of the joy and blessedness of their heavenly home.

For all who are in any sickness, pain, anguish, or suffering, for all who are in any danger from within or without, we pray. Teach them to turn to you and wait upon you for your mercy; grant them hope and a joyous deliverance out of all their trials, and let them walk in your light all their days.

These things we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Refuge and Hope. Amen.

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TRINITY

**Twentieth Sunday**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, who, for those who love you, makes all things work together for good. In the precious Name of you Son Jesus Christ our Lord, we give thanks to you for all things: for your mercy in times of health, prosperity, and peace, and for your fatherly aid in times of adversity and affliction; for your goodness which comes to us in the love of family and the companionship of friends, and for your strengthening help in paths of lowliness and temptation; for your bounty in knowledge and wisdom, and for light when the way is dark and unknown. We especially thank you for the gift of your dear Son, by whose death and resurrection you brought us into your fold and led us to receive all your manifold blessings freely.

Grant, O Father, that we may be filled with your Holy Spirit, so that we may have understanding of your Word and will, and power to walk faithfully in obedience and love. Enlighten our minds, that we may rescue the fleeting hours of this life from evil and folly by laying hold of every opportunity to do good. Transform our hearts so that we may find joy, not in iniquity, but in worship of you, communion with our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of your people.

Furnish your church, O Lord, with such grace that it, with robes washed in the blood of the Lamb, may be adorned as a bride for the heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Grant it a readiness to sacrifice, a zeal for your cause, and a faithfulness to your Word, that it may never falter in its holy calling. Give repentance to your people, and clothe them with the garments of faith, hope, and love. Send your servants out into all nations, opening the hearts of all who hear your Gospel, and crown their labors with success.

Have dominion over all the earth, and bring all rulers to your obedience, so that all tyranny and oppression may be banished, the love of war and the lust for power broken, and the worship of false gods destroyed. Especially we ask your blessing on our own land. Revive in our midst the esteem of honor, truth, purity, true religion, and the works of faith. As you are the Fountain of wisdom, endow our leaders with sound judgment, good counsel, and sure knowledge, so that we may be preserved from all our enemies, both within and without, and live to serve you and our fellow people in tranquility and concord.

Teach our families to wait upon you in every necessity and provide for them in due season all such things as they may need for body or spirit.

Grant that all who are in sickness or sorrow, tribulation or danger, or who have suffered disappointment or injustice, may increase in faith and love, be kept by your mighty hand, and be delivered out of all their woes.

These things we entreat you, O God, to grant us in Christ Jesus' Name and for his sake. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

 TRINITY

**Twenty-First Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, who keeps covenant and mercy with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, open your eyes toward this house where your Name dwells, and listen now to the prayers of your people, that we may be confirmed in your promises and rejoice in your love.

Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit, that we may hear, read, and receive your Word in reverence and gratitude; and that, as it instructs us in your glory in the creation of heaven and earth, in your providence in the governance of all things, and in your infinite mercy in the gift of your dear Son Jesus Christ for our salvation, we may believe it with all our hearts and give it free course in our lives.

Enable us to see ourselves as you see us and help us to confess our sinfulness and repent of our iniquity. Clothe us with your armor, that we may be strong in faith and, in the power of your might, may resist the treacherous wiles of Satan, the sly temptations of the world, and the stubborn weakness of our own flesh. Deliver us from the dominion of darkness and preserve us for the eternal kingdom of Christ our Lord.

Grant unto us the spirit of prayer, that in faith we may unceasingly and boldly seek your blessings for all our needs, bring you our supplications for loved ones and our intercessions for all people, and trust in your goodness to fulfill our joy in your answer for Jesus' sake.

Protect us from all peril by storm or fire, from plague and famine, from war and discord, from treachery and rebellion, from luxury and ease, from ignorance and superstition, from painful and sudden death, and from an evil end. Although we have disobeyed your commandments and deserve your correction, grant us that we may be warned instead, learn our dependence upon you, and walk in obedience to all your will.

Prosper your church, that it may be maintained in the true faith of your holy Name, and uphold your people that they may worship you with pure hearts and serve you and all humankind in love. Raise up ministers and missionaries who will honor their calling by a godly life, seek the lost with uncommon zeal, and feed your flock with the Bread of Heaven.

And as the whole world is in your power, send forth the Sword of the Spirit into all nations, that the wicked may be judged and overthrown and the righteous defended against all their persecutors. Grant that all who rule may have purpose, diligence, and wisdom to strive earnestly for the peace of the world and the health and happiness of mankind.

Bless our own land. Endow the President and Congress of the United States of America, the governors and legislatures of West Virginia, and all in authority with understanding and integrity, that they may serve according to your good pleasure. Give your favor to industry and agriculture, that they may provide for our use the wholesome fruits of their crafts, and increase in education and research such knowledge as will direct our thoughts to you and to your majesty.

All these things we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, who by his most bitter suffering and death, and by his most glorious resurrection, has given to us the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twenty-Second Sunday**

O God, who in wisdom made the world and established the heavens, we thank you for our creation, and that in love you fearfully and wonderfully made us in your image, granting us the gift of intelligence and the power of reason; a house for your Spirit in the temple of our bodies; a spiritual awareness by which our hearts are restless until they rest in you; a moral nature enlightened by divine truth by which we may perceive the evil and the good, and by your grace choose the good; and the capacity of faith through which we may have inwardly the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen.

We especially thank you for the gift of faith in the revelation of your presence in your Son Jesus Christ, by whom you commended your love toward us, and who by your grace laid down his life, tasting death for all, that he might bring salvation to all the world.

Pour out your Spirit upon us anew each day, that our love for our Lord may richly grow in divine knowledge, spiritual insight, and true discrimination, and bring a harvest of goodness and purity for your praise. Grant by your Spirit that we may always be kind toward one another in Christian love, forgiving one another, as you forgave us for Christ's sake.

Direct and rule your church in its fellowship in the Gospel, that it may be steadfast in the faith once delivered to it; and defend it against all its enemies, that it may serve you without fear. And as we have freely received from you, move us to give freely, liberally, and gladly for you in the support of all who toil in your vineyard in our own and in distant lands. We especially lift up to you your servants who are persecuted for your Name's sake. Overshadow them with your power and fill them with your Spirit, that they, showing your glory in their faithfulness and love, may turn the hearts of their oppressors. Remove from the midst of your people all falsehood and error, and grant them truth and godliness.

Go before the nations as a light to relieve the darkness of sin and ignorance and lead them into the pathways of peace and happiness, so that they may love and glorify you.

Grant health and wisdom to all in our own land who bear authority, so that they may serve in accordance with your will, and that we may prosper in the things that make for concord and righteousness. Bring down all the devices of the wicked and uphold and further all that is good, that we may be saved from your wrath and be defended by your mercy.

Implant your Word in the hearts of all our children, that they may be raised to lives of usefulness to your church and to their country. Give to all parents your blessing and grant them understanding and patience.

Watch over the sick, the sorrowing, and the anxious; be their companion in suffering and their help in tribulation. Preserve those who are in any mortal peril of body or soul and save them by your gracious providence. Although, on account of our sins, we deserve your fatherly correction, help us to receive you in humility and repentance and turn to you for pardon and peace.

These and all other things of which we have need, we ask you to bestow upon us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twenty-Third Sunday**

O Lord God almighty, who through the greatness of your power created all things in heaven and earth and determined the times and the habitations of all nations, divinely instituting all human authority, we acknowledge your dominion and offer you praise and thanksgiving for your glory.

We thank you that you crowned the year with your goodness and covered your paths with abundance. You filled the wells with water, and the pastures are clothed with flocks. You spread grain throughout the plains, and you adorned the valleys with your bounty. You quiet the noise of the seas and renew the hills with the rain and the snow. You fill the earth with your riches and reward the industry of man. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of all who call upon you. Great is your Name, O God, and marvelous is your mercy.

We especially thank you that you brought us salvation and quickened all souls in the unspeakable gift of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose death we have been delivered from the bondage of sin, and by whose resurrection we have been made citizens of your eternal kingdom. Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may continually look to him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith, follow his holy example in our life and conversation, and set our minds on the heavenly things you provided in him and prepared for our appearance in glory.

Send forth your Word into all the earth, that your way may be known, your saving health among all nations. Let the righteous be glad in your truth and sing for joy. Scatter your enemies and let all that hate you flee.

Bestow your blessing on this land, and grant that all who bear the sword of authority may know your fear and acknowledge your power, so that justice and mercy, righteousness and peace may prevail, that all wickedness may be punished and all violence suppressed. Grant that your people may honor the law with their obedience, pay respect to their earthly rulers with their affection and esteem, and pray for them that they may diligently protect life, property, and liberty, and be guided by your wisdom.

Make your church alive with the power of the Gospel. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon it, that it may serve you with fervency and zeal, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, benevolent in heart, continuous in prayer.

Teach the youth of the church to count all good things as the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus as Lord, and help the children to receive him with joy and gladness.

Give quietness and confidence to all who may be enduring any trial or adversity of body, mind, or spirit, and grant them the rewards of faith and trust in you.

Since our salvation is nearer than when we first believed, help us, O God, to awaken out of our sleep, to cast off the works of darkness, and to put on the armor of light, so that when our Lord Jesus Christ shall return, he may, according to his promise, transfigure this frail body and grant it a resplendent form like his. In his Name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday**

O Lord our God, the Rock of our salvation and the Fountain of all truth, who gives food to the hungry and executes judgment for the oppressed, who opens the eyes of the blind and raises those who are lowly, who is a home for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the righteous: We give thanks that you delivered us from the power of darkness, redeemed us with the precious blood of Christ, and, raising him from the dead in glory, gave us the promise of inheritance with all your people in heaven.

Grant us, as we come to you in faith and prayer, the presence of your Holy Spirit, that by his gracious influence we may escape the corruption that is in the world and that we may bear the fruit of true goodness. Through your Word help us to grow in the knowledge of you and of your will and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may walk before you according to your good pleasure all the days of our life, steadfast in faith and love, abounding in spiritual understanding and patience, and strengthened for every work of brotherly kindness and charity. Touch our souls with your power, that we may be revived and healed, and sanctify our hearts that we may show forth your praises.

Stir up your church, O Lord, to a remembrance of your everlasting mercies and your continual presence. Cleanse, strengthen, and govern it, that it may be your holy people and a light that shines in the darkness. Send forth shepherds to feed the flock who, by their obedience and love, shall be people of God. Put your Word into their mouths that truth may prevail and righteousness grow among us.

Look in compassion upon our world and let your Gospel come as the breath of life to all nations, that they may turn from their evil ways, repent of their transgressions, idolatries, rebellions, love of pleasure, vanity, and conceit, and turn to you for forgiveness through Jesus Christ and be saved.

Judge our own land, that we may mend our ways, obey your voice, and, walking in the way of your commandments, be protected by your power from all our enemies. Endow our leaders with wisdom and courage so that they may execute justice, protect all that is good, and punish all that is evil, so that we may serve you in peace and safety.

Bless our homes and defend them against all strife and discord. Grant that our children may know and love him who came to give them the abundant life, and give all parents grace to lead them to the feet of the Lord Jesus by the example of their life and conversation.

We implore your mercy upon all the sick, the sorrowing, and the suffering. Support them in their trials and deliver them by your goodness, that, being made whole in body and spirit, they may ever trust in the comfort of your fatherly care.

According to your promise, the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, so give us diligence in truth and godliness, that we do not fail to attain to your eternal kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. In his holy Name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday**

O almighty God and heavenly Father, you are holy and righteous; your glory fills the universe, and your power encompasses the world; your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and your truth endures throughout all generations. Be in the midst of your people and hear the voice of our supplication.

We thank you for all your mercies. Your kindness comes to us anew us each day. We praise you for the light of your Word, by which you illumined our darkness. We glorify you for all your benefits. You have not withheld good things from those who walk uprightly. Most heartily we thank you for the mighty gift you bestowed upon us in Jesus Christ, your well-beloved Son, who took upon himself the form of a servant and, being found in fashion as a human, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, in order that we might receive the remission of our sins and, being absolved, have the assurance of everlasting life, and the certainty of the resurrection of our bodies on the last day.

In this faith, O Lord, take from us the sting of sorrow and the victory of the grave. In this blessed hope in Christ, who is the First-fruits of them that slept, help us to conquer all fear of death and to live in the confidence that because he lives, we shall also live. Make us mindful that as we have borne the image of the earthly, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly. Comfort by this grace and truth all who are bereaved and wipe all tears from their eyes.

Deliver us from the tribulations of this world, its false Christs and false prophets, its heresies and divisions, its lies and treachery, its wars and oppressions, its fighting and calamities, its bloodshed and pain, and grant that as the days which you appointed us are few and troubled, we may apply our hearts to your wisdom, and abide under the shadow of your love and power, where there is refuge from every peril and where no evil can befall us.

Prosper your church, dear God, in all its endeavors in the work to which you called it. Help it to work diligently while it is day before the night comes. Cleanse your church of every impure and untrue thing, that it may be without blemish when the Lord returns.

Stretch forth your hand over the nations of the earth, rebuke the vain and proud, free the enslaved, defend the persecuted, and bless the obedient, that all may know that you are God, and that there is none except you. Preserve our own country from the corruption of the wicked, that we come not under your judgment, and save us that we may be used by you for the healing of the nations. Breathe your Spirit upon our land that elected officials may be honorable, business and labor leaders unselfish, scientists and educators God-fearing, and our ministers strong in faith.

We entreat you to look in mercy upon all the sick and any who are stricken in body, mind, or spirit. Manifest your presence to them and heal them according to your love and their need.

Forgive us our sins for Christ's sake, and give us that peace which passes all understanding, that joy which no man can take from us, and that hope which does not fade away.

In the Name which is above every name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday**

Lord God, heavenly Father, of whom and through whom and to whom are all things, to you be glory forever and ever. We thank you for all your blessings: for our creation and all that exists; for the priceless gifts and endowments of body and mind and for your daily provision for all the necessities of life; for the joys of home, family, and friends and for good government and just laws; for the light of education and the growth of the healing arts; for your protection in danger and for your deliverance from all evil; but in particular we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom you saved us from wrath and appointed us to obtain salvation and eternal life. Grant that we may be filled with his Spirit and produce the fruits of faith, hope, and compassion, so that when he comes in his glory we may be received into his eternal kingdom.

And you will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of all hearts, make manifest to us our exceeding sinfulness and lead us to repentance; cleanse and purify us by your grace, that we may be absolved from all our sins and preserved from the power of evil; sanctify all our thoughts, utterances, and endeavors, that we may perfectly love and serve you; direct and counsel us that, according to your good pleasure, we may daily work out our salvation in fear and trembling, and finally, in the day of judgment, be conformed to the image of your dear Son.

Open the eyes of your church to see that Christ the Bridegroom from heaven is near and, as there remains a rest for the people of God, to labor with diligence by proclaiming your Word with all boldness, that multitudes may be saved to the glory of your holy Name.

Have dominion over all the nations of the earth, and in every land, by your Word call, gather, and enlighten a people who love and obey you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless our own land. Guide those who are in authority with your wisdom, that they may rule with humility, serve with uprightness, lead with vision, and plan with intelligence; grant that freedom, charity, and unity may dwell among us.

Defend our homes from the corrupting influences of the world, the devil, and our own flesh. Keep parents steadfast in faith, each one loving and honoring the other, and our children in affectionate obedience, each one growing in grace and favor with you.

We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, but especially for the afflicted. Lift up the weary and the wounded, heal the sick and the diseased, strengthen the aged and the infirm, give hope to the depressed and anxious, guard the imperiled and oppressed; by your mighty power give them in Christ Jesus light for their darkness and joy for their sadness.

And now, O God, who will once more shake the heavens and the earth, but who gave us a kingdom which cannot be moved, grant us steadfastness and patience, that, when your Son appears with all his holy angels, we may be clothed with his righteousness and inherit the heavenly city which abides forever. In his exalted Name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)

TRINITY

**The Last Sunday**

O God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to your own purpose and grace given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began, we thank you for the abundance of your mercies, but especially for the gift of your Son, in whom, through his suffering on the cross, you abolished death and, through his resurrection, brought life and immortality to light.

Grant that by your grace we may continue in the things we have learned through your Word, and of which we have been assured by your Holy Spirit, so that, being wise to salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus, we may receive on the day of his coming the crown of righteousness. Save us from following after perversions and denials of his truth and from giving heed to lies, deceptions, and vain philosophies.

In his coming in power he shall judge all the living and the dead. Help us to walk each day in the way of your commandments, to work for peace and holiness with all people, to endure in meekness for your Name's sake such pain and adversity as we are called to bear, to be constant in prayer that we avoid temptation, to behold the signs of the times, and to look for the new heavens and earth which the redeemed of the Lord shall inherit in everlasting joy and gladness.

Deliver us from every evil work, from all ungodliness, and from worldly lusts; from the proud and disobedient, from corrupt and immoral people, from the foolish and pleasure-seeking.

Give strength to your church, that with fervent spirit it may fight the good fight of faith. Raise up a faithful ministry who know Christ in sincerity and truth, and whom Christ will know and own upon his return. Call forth messengers who will endure hardness as good soldiers in carrying his Gospel to all lands. Prosper the schools of the church, that young people may be prepared to serve you and all people in every useful and honorable vocation. Give your blessing to the church's institutions of mercy and grant your aid to all who work among them. Bestow heavenly grace upon all parents that they may teach their children the way of life in Christ Jesus; and keep the young always faithful in word and deed.

Govern the nations upon earth, and plead your own cause amongst the multitudes, that they may be turned from their darkness to your light, and from sin to righteousness. Be the Shield of our land. Look upon us in mercy, and make us repentant for our wickedness, immorality, and materialism. Subdue all evil in our midst, and let your Word flourish, so that truth and holiness may prevail.

Hear the cry of the afflicted and give them your compassionate aid. Make straight paths for them, strengthening the weak, upholding the infirm, and healing the sick. Enlighten them so receive your grace in trust and confidence, to them bring forth the healthful fruits of righteousness and joy.

Preserve us all in steadfast faith, looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his coming will manifest himself as the blessed and only ruler, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.

Adapted from Clemens H. Zeidler, *Altar Prayers for the Church Year* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962)