



Midweek Meditation



Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Our sinful flesh does not agree with the above prayer, which was the collect for this past Sunday. We think we indeed can stand upright on our own. Thus, we dispense with reading the Word of God daily. Thus, we do not feel the need to receive the Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood regularly. We do not agree with the statement that we live in the midst of so many dangers, spiritual dangers, that is. Oh, we spot physical dangers without trouble. But the greater dangers, those to our eternal soul, remain hidden to our eyes, and thus, we think we are able to stand upright. Our flesh does not believe that, apart from the Lord, we would fall instantly.

It's good, therefore, that we are taught to pray in this way. The collects of the church are treasures. They instruct us. They do battle with our flesh. They call us to the right way of thinking and praying. We want to pray for those things which our eyes can see. And God does want us to bring every need and request to Him. But the collects of the church have us praying words that we, ourselves, would never say. They shape our prayer life. They call us from misbelief to faith. And they comfort us with God's rich promises in Christ. He does, as we ask above, support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations.

Dear Lord, teach me to pray for that which I need. Let the "Our Father," the Psalms, and the collects of the church shape my prayer life. Amen.