

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
October 8, 2017 through October 15, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The First Article of the Creed — “All that I am and all that I have comes from God. Apart from Him I am and have nothing.” These assertions are central to the Christian teaching concerning God. They declare that we, and all of creation, are completely dependent upon Him. Even when we abuse the life and gifts that He has given, we do so by His power in us. This is what makes such evil all the more blasphemous! Martin Luther’s Creedal Hymn confesses both our dependence upon God and His love for us that motivates Him to create, provide, protect, and defend us. “We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven, The Father who to us in love has the right of children given. He in soul and body feeds us; All we need His hand provides us; Through all snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betide us. He cares for us by day and night; All things are governed by His might.” The Catechism helps us to understand that what He has made and given is ALWAYS good, even if our sinful human reason might not think so and might even rebel against such gifts. There is great freedom in the gift of faith that accepts the truths of the First Article. All Christians, the deaf, the blind, and the lame, still confess that God has made them, including their “eyes, ears, and all their members,” even if they don’t work the way they want them to work. God’s created gifts are given AS THEY ARE, that we might learn to trust in Him through these gifts, extolling Him alone as God and relying upon His grace in our weakness.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: We Are Called into the Wedding Feast of the Son of God

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalm 27 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, You are my light and my salvation, and You are the strength of my life. Therefore grant me to fear no one. Give me a hunger and thirst for Your Word, that I may delight to dwell in Your house all the days of my life and to behold the beauty of Your love for me and for all sinners. Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may wait upon You and be of good courage; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112
Evening	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136

Readings for the Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:1-14
Monday	The Lord Confirms That Moses Is His Prophet—Numbers 16:19b-40	Mark 4:1-41
Tuesday	The Budding of Aaron’s Rod—Numbers 16:41—17:13	Luke 13:18-35
Wednesday	Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)	Matthew 13:31-58
Thursday	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9	Matthew 16:13-20
Friday	Balaam’s Donkey—Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38 (survey chapters 23 and 24) 24:10-13 (14-19) 25	2 Corinthians 3:10—4:18
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	2 Corinthians 5:1-21
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	John 4:46-54

The Catechism: The Creed—The First Article

What is the First Article of the Creed? I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	Preschool +
What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.	First Grade +

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.
He defends me against all danger
and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, Collect for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Prayer on the First Article

Heavenly Father, You are God Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We give thanks to You that you have made us and all creatures; that You have given us our bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and that You still take care of them. You also give us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all we have. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in our body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do for us out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe that this is most certainly true, and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You as long as we live. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the First Article of the Creed You teach us that You are the God of self-giving love. You have created us and all things out of Your fatherly divine goodness and mercy. We give thanks to You for all that You have made, for every gift of body and soul, for our talents and abilities, and for all that You have given us to preserve us each day and to make our lives enjoyable. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in this body and life, and You defend us against all danger and guard and keep us from all evil. Forgive us for not trusting in You, for failing to give thanks for all Your gifts of creation, and for not using your gifts in loving service to others. Strengthen us by Jesus' forgiveness and love to rejoice in all that You have made and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Creation

Heavenly Father, Your Word gives life and has created and sustains all things. We thank You for the sun, the moon, and the stars which give light to the earth and order our days and seasons. We give thanks to You for the expanse of the sky, for the water that sustains all of life, and for the dry land upon which we live. We give thanks to You for the plants and animals of Your creation. You have given all of this to us for our good and for our enjoyment. We give thanks to You that You have created us in Your image, male and female, to be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion over the creation. We thank You for ordering our lives and giving us rest and refreshment through Your Word. But most of all, we thank You for redeeming us and all of creation from sin and death through the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to trust in You as our Creator and to believe in Your Son for eternal life and salvation, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Those suffering under the signs of the end times: hurricanes, earthquakes, famine, war, and terrorism.

Donald and Jeanne Scholz, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

For the sick and recovering: Doug Pom, recuperating from prostate surgery and infection; Cindy Hirtz, hospitalized and recuperating from a post-operative infection. Pat Loose, undergoing knee surgery on October 10.

Collect for the week of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity:

O Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay" (stanza 1-"Triune God")

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Looking forward to the Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

October 15, 2017

Hymns: 942, 948, 607, 954, 960, 198, 533, 578, 617

Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ephesians 6:10-17; John 4:46-54

"Let there be light,' and there was light" (Gen. 1:1—2:3). The Father speaks, and it is so. His Word accomplishes what it says. He created all things out of nothing through His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father's creative Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, that He might restore fallen creation and save fallen man. To the nobleman whose son was deathly ill, Jesus says, "Go; your son will live" (John 4:46-54). And in the very hour Jesus spoke, the nobleman's son was made well. The Word of Christ still accomplishes what it says. In baptism, absolution, and the Lord's Supper, He declares His life-giving forgiveness to you, and it is so. This saving Word of God is the sword of the Spirit by which you are able to fight off all the onslaughts of the devil (Eph. 6:10-17). "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." LSB Notes