

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity
 November 12, 2017 through November 19, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week—How Do We Receive the Holy Spirit — When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter evening, He said to them, “Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you ... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20: 21-23, NKJV). These words teach us much about “how” we receive the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit through our Savior’s Word of forgiveness. There is an inseparable linkage between our Savior’s words and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is “the Lord and giver of life.” He calls us to faith in Christ. He creates a new will in our hearts that desires to love God and serve the neighbor. He produces in us the good works of love that flow from faith. He brings forth in us the “fruit of the Spirit”— love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He brings to us everything that Jesus has done for us. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus Himself actually dwells in our hearts by faith. The Holy Spirit does all this by the Word of our Savior. Christians need to know where the Holy Spirit promises to be found: in the reception of the Word of Christ. Therefore, we seek the Spirit in the very promises of our Baptism, in the ongoing preaching of the Gospel, in faithful catechesis of the Word of Christ, in the life of repentance and faith that confesses sin and receives the absolution. Even the Lord’s Supper carries the promise of the Holy Spirit because Jesus’ word, “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” is at the center of the Sacrament. When we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are praying for the Holy Spirit to come to us and work in us where He promises to be found: in Christ’s Word—in all the wonderful ways Jesus’ word of forgiveness comes to us.

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: Jesus’ Second Coming Will Be Like the Flash of Lightening

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:3

No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed,
 and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 14 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, it is foolish to say that there is no God or to deny the corruption of sin that infects all of humanity. Deliver us from stubborn unbelief and impenitence. Save us from the wicked and perverse world in which we live. Be our refuge and salvation, and cause the Gospel of Christ’s righteousness to be faithfully proclaimed from the Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66
Evening	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70

Readings for the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Sunday	The Great Tribulation—Matthew 24:15-28	Matthew 24:15-28
Monday	Othniel, Israel’s First Judge—Judges 3:7-11	Matthew 24:29-51
Tuesday	Ehud, Israel’s Left-Handed Judge—Judges 3:12-30 (31)	Matthew 22:23-33
Wednesday	Deborah the Prophetess Judges Israel—Judges 4:1-24	1 Corinthians 15:11-58
Thursday	The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon—Judges 6:1 (2-5) 6, 11-27	Hebrews 3:7—4:13
Friday	The Sign of the Fleece—Judges 6:28-40	Hebrews 11:8-16
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Hebrews 12:18-29
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	Matthew 25:31-46

The Catechism: The Creed—The Third Article

<p><i>What is the Third Article of the Creed?</i> I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.</p>	<p>Preschool +</p>
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	<p>First Grade +</p>
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	<p>Second Grade +</p>

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

Prayer on the Third Article:

O Holy Spirit, we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. Call us to faith in Jesus by the Gospel, enlighten us every day with Your gifts of baptism, absolution, and the Lord’s Supper; and sanctify and keep us and the whole Christian Church on earth with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Forgive us our sins every day and give us the blessed hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Wedding Anniversaries: Matt and Verla Gatchell, 35th

For the sick and recovering: Jim Frerking, recuperating from shoulder surgery. Elaine Boetcher, chronic illness; Lisa Eldridge receiving cancer treatment; Rev. Karl Fabrizio treatment for bladder cancer; Walter Schmuldach (father of Mark Schmuldach) suffering from prostate and bone cancer; Henry Fuchs suffering with lymphoma; Jan Meyle, recuperating from a broken hip and surgery; Esther, mother of Linda O’Neill, also recuperating from a broken hip and surgery.

Collect for the week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; 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

“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” (stanzas 1, 6-7)

Looking forward to the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity November 19, 2017

Hymns: 513, 508, 844, 848, 941, 924

Daniel 7:9-14; 2 Peter 3:3-14; Matthew 25:31-46

“Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a Son of Man” (Dan. 7:13). The Lord Jesus will return in glory on the Last Day with all His holy angels. “Before Him will be gathered all the nations . . . And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left” (Matt. 25:31–33). Those on His left will be cast into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For they rejected Christ by failing to receive and support His brethren, that is, the preachers of the Gospel. But those on His right will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. For they received and supported His brethren and believed what they preached. We believe in the promise of Christ’s coming, even if it is delayed because of His longsuffering mercy. Conducting ourselves in godliness, knowing that this fallen creation will soon pass away, we look forward to “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13).