

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Reformation
October 27 through November 3, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 56: A Prayer of Absolute Confidence in God—Psalm 56 was composed by David during that period in which he was hunted by King Saul. He had fled to the land of the Philistines to escape Saul’s reach, but that presented a new problem: the Philistines hated him because of Goliath and the many victories he had won against them. In order to appear as no threat to the Philistines, he pretended to be out of his mind (1 Samuel 21:10-15). The Philistines thought that he was a crazy man, an accusation often leveled against Jesus. David’s prayer is one of absolute confidence in God. His words remind us of what Paul wrote centuries later in Romans 8: “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?” (Romans 8:31-33). The confidence in David’s prayer rests squarely upon the Word of God. God’s Word is what gives us the certainty of God’s love and of His abiding protection. “In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His Word), In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” The words of David and Paul could not be more timely for us today.

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.

Theme: Christ’s Righteousness Sets Us Free!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Psalm 56 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, be merciful to me and by the sure and certain promises of Your Word sustain me against every enemy, grant me the strength to keep my vows to You, and to praise Your name at all times; 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	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24
Evening	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Reformation: “Continue in My Word”—John 8:31-36	
Monday	Abram Rescues Lot; Pays a Tithe to Melchizedek—Gen. 14:8-23 St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles: John 15:17-21	Hebrews 6:19—7:17
Tuesday	God’s Covenant with Abram—Promise of a Son—Gen. 15:1-6	Galatians 2:16; 3:6-9
Wednesday	Hagar and Ishmael—Genesis 16:1-16	Galatians 3:19—4:7
Thursday	Circumcision and Abram’s Name Change—Gen. 17:1-11 (12-14)	Romans 4:1-3, 7-13
Friday	No School —Matthew 11:12-19 (alternate Reformation Gospel)	
Saturday	All Saints’ Day: Clothed in Christ’s Righteousness—Rev. 7:9-17	1 John 3:1-3

The Catechism: The Creed—The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed? And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...	Preschool +
What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,	First Grade +
That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Second Article

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Second Article of the Creed You teach us that Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the greatest gift of Your love for us. He is truly God, begotten of You from eternity, and He is truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He has become our Lord and Savior by redeeming us from all sins, death, and from the power of the devil with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. We no longer belong to the devil. Sin and death have no power over us. Jesus did all this that we might be His own, and that we might live under Him in His kingdom in the protection and safety of His everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for all eternity. For all that Jesus has done for us we give You thanks and praise. Forgive us for trusting in any work of our own for salvation. Forgive us for doubting Your love and the precious gift of forgiveness we have in Jesus. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe with absolute confidence that our sins are forgiven and that we stand righteous before You for Jesus' sake because He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Lindsey (nee Cardo) and Jeffrey Kenyon united in marriage on October 26. Larry and Sharon Martin, celebrating their 47th.

Kirstin Franklin serving with the LCMS Mercy Medical Team in Uganda for two weeks.

The sick: Oliver Siegel, 16-year old grandson of a friend of Christine Franklin, who will be undergoing complicated surgery for severe deformities of his spine. Tim Murphy, neighbor's son of Jim and Anne Schumacher, who suffered a stroke; Aubrey Krueger, suffering from postpartum complications; Francis Sidwell, father of Donna Aufdemberge, hospitalized with heart, lung, and kidney issues; Ruth Mitchell, mother of Kimberly Hughes, recovering from pace maker surgery; Roger Laubenstein, cancer treatment; Geri Klimowicz, neighbor of Kathy May, in critical condition. Joe Loesl in hospice care.

Those in mourning: The family of Larry Martin's aunt Leona, and the family of Peter Hermanson's grandfather Bill.

Collect for St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles (October 28)

Almighty God, You chose Your servants Simon and Jude to be numbered among the glorious company of the apostles. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Reformation (October 31)

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for All Saints' Day (November 1)

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Hymn of the Week

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (stanzas 1-2)

656

Looking forward to All Saints' Day Celebrated

November 3, 2019

Hymns 677, TLH 656, 679, 725, 671, 672, 670

Revelation 7:9-17: John sees a vision of heaven. On the last day, believers of every tribe and nation will be gathered before the throne of the Lamb. They will have had their sin washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. They will be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and they will forever sing the praises of Him who is their salvation and who has wiped away all tears from their eyes.

1 John 3:1-3: The Apostle John points us forward to the hope of the resurrection when we will be like Christ Jesus in His glory. We now walk by faith in the promises of salvation and the resurrection of the body. We live in the sure and certain hope and confidence that we shall rise from the dead to an immortal life that is the very life of Christ Himself. "It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Matthew 5:1-12: The One greater than Moses calls His disciples out of the multitudes and opens His mouth to give them the Word of God by which they are made alive. Jesus preaches about the reality of Baptism in which we are joined to Christ so that what is true of Him is now true of us. Truly, the eight Beatitudes describe Christ, but the plural is used because God the Father now declares this about all who are baptized into the name of the Blessed Trinity. Eight represents those of the new creation who possess the kingdom of heaven just as the eight were spared from the Flood in the ark. Each Beatitude looks back to events from the history of Israel, but also anticipates other parts of Matthew's Gospel. The life of the baptized is to be that of sorrow and joy, persecution and reward, death and resurrection. So closely are we joined to Christ in Baptism that these things of His experience become ours also. This is to be immediately understood of the work of the apostles themselves as they preach the content of the Beatitudes, that is, Christ. If they preach the Beatitudes as Law, the world will readily accept their preaching for the world sees these as admirable guides for behavior. It is only when they dare to proclaim the Gospel of the meek and merciful Peacemaker that they will be rejected and persecuted. But it is in this meek and merciful Peacemaker, our Lord Jesus Christ, that we have the joy and freedom of the Gospel. The promises of the Beatitudes become a source of comfort for us as Christians who believe in Jesus and who bear in our own bodies and lives the very life of Christ our Savior.