

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity
November 17, through November 24, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 59: A Prayer of Christ Against the Enemies of the Lord—Psalm 59 is yet another prayer of David during that period in which Saul sought to destroy him. The entire psalter was not only known and prayed by our Lord Jesus, but the psalms also speak of Him. The words of Psalm 59, especially, belong in the mouth of Christ. When we understand it first as His prayer to His Father, then we are enabled to pray it through faith in Jesus. Look at how the words rightly belong in Jesus' mouth: "Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men. For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Lord. They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine... But You, O Lord, shall laugh at them...." These words rightly belong in Jesus' mouth as He faces those who ultimately wanted to destroy Him. In the end, however, we learn how faith in Christ both thinks and prays by the pattern of Jesus' prayers. In Christ we are declared righteous and therefore have the right to approach the throne of grace, through Christ, when we are attacked in the same way that He was.

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: We Look Forward to the New Heavens and the New Earth.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and 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.

Psalm 59 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, deliver me from every enemy who seeks to destroy my faith in Jesus. Grant to me the calm confidence of faith and teach me to sing of Your salvation at all times and in every circumstance of life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
Evening	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 26: The Sheep and the Goats—Matthew 25:31-46	
Monday	Isaac and Abimelech—Genesis 26:1-11	Ephesians 5:15-33
Tuesday	Isaac Blesses Jacob—Genesis 27:1-29	Romans 3:27—4:8
Wednesday	Esau Does Not Receive the Blessing—Genesis 27:30-45	Romans 4:13-25
Thursday	Heaven Is Opened at Bethel—Genesis 27:46—28:22	Romans 5:1-11
Friday	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel—Genesis 29:1-30	John 4:1-14
Saturday	Trinity 27: The New Creation—Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

What is the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer? Our Father who art in heaven.	Preschool +
What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.	First Grade +
What is the First Petition? Hallowed be Thy name.	Preschool +
What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.	Second Grade +

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it.

Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!

But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us.

Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Third Grade +

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

Prayer on the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism, we became Your dear children and You became our dear Father. You have given us every gift of salvation through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for Jesus' sake have made to us many great and precious promises. We thank You for the gift of forgiveness, for clothing us with the righteousness of Christ, and for making us joint heirs with Your Son of eternal life. Forgive us for doubting Your tender love for us and for not trusting that we are Your dear children in Jesus. Give us confidence in Your Word, boldness to call upon You in prayer for all our needs, and the joy of being Your dearly loved and forgiven children; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer on the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, You hallow Your name among us when Your Word is taught in its truth and purity and when we, as Your dear children, also lead holy lives according to it. We give thanks to You for the gift of Your Word; for our pastors, parents, and others who teach it; and for the holy lives of all Your faithful Christians who live according to it. Forgive us for the many ways in which we profane Your holy name among us by failing to teach Your Word in its truth and purity, to pray for our pastors and teachers, or to lead holy lives. Protect us from false doctrine and evil living. Help all who are called to teach and preach Your Word to do so with faithfulness, and grant us to receive Your Word rightly that our lives may be made holy by it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Carol Bender, 90th birthday.

Robert Haga, leaving for Marine Boot Camp in San Diego, CA November 18.

The sick: Aubrey Krueger, suffering from postpartum complications;

Oliver Siegel, 16-year old grandson of a friend of Christine Franklin, who will be undergoing complicated surgery for severe deformities of his spine on Nov. 29.

Geri Klimowicz, neighbor of Kathy May, complications of hepatitis A;

Roger Laubenstein, Rev. Karl Fabrizius cancer treatment;

Hospice Care: Judy Jones, and Francis Sidwell, father of Donna Aufdenberge, with heart, lung, and kidney issues;

Collect for the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your just judgement, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; 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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" (stanzas 1 and 2)

525

Looking forward to the Twenty--seventh Sunday after Trinity/the Last Sunday of the Church Year November 24, 2019

Hymns: 515, 516, 674, 742, 741, 747

Isaiah 65:17-25: We are so attached to the things of this world, that the promise of the prophet—that the former things of this world shall not be remembered—may not at first offer comfort. Yet, for the Christian whose hope is in Christ, we long to be rid of the corruption of sin and the devil's temptations that so often entangle us. These are the "former things" that shall not be remembered. In addition, the prophet paints the picture that the new heavens and the new earth will be a life that is lived entirely from the love of God in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11: "Waking" and "sleeping" are synonyms for "faith" and "mistrust." To be "awake" and watchful for the Lord's coming, is to live in eager anticipation of the consummation of our salvation through the hearing of His Word, the receiving of the Sacrament, contrition and repentance, and the life of prayer. To be asleep is to turn away from these things to find one's comfort and happiness in what is passing away.

Matthew 25:1-13: Faith in Christ alone makes one wise to salvation. Foolish is the one who casts aside the Gospel of Christ. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins is a parable about faith and unbelief. To believe in Christ is to love Him and long for His coming again in glory, like a faithful bride and her bridesmaids who await the coming of the Bridegroom. Those who do not believe in Christ have no particular yearning or anticipation for the Bridegroom's coming. We go to the Sacrament each week, confessing our sins that we might "learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins,... so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved." (Small Catechism) To "watch, [that is] pray" is to cry out to our Bridegroom, as His faithful bride, according to the loving promises of His Gospel and the gracious Words of His testament: "take eat, this is My body ... drink of it all of you, this is My blood."