

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 24, through December 1, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 60: A Psalm of Praise to God for His Salvation and Providence—During the reign of King Saul, Israel was not at rest and had much conflict from within and without. During the reign of David, the Lord solidified the kingdom and gave victory to Israel over her enemies. In Psalm 60, David traces the gracious providence of the Lord. There were times when He allowed them to be afflicted because they had turned away from Him. There were times that He delivered them. Only the God who at times cast them off would be the God who would give them help. David’s kingdom had been established after Saul. The ancient ascription tells us that this psalm was written, “when David fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt” (2 Samuel 8). David rightly addresses the Lord in humble terms. If the Lord had not gone with them into battle, they would have failed miserably. But the Lord established the Davidic kingdom as He had promised and David rejoices. The geographic reference points show the extent to which the kingdom of David had spread. The psalm ends with a prayer for God’s ongoing help, the renunciation of human strength, and a confession of firm faith: “Give us help from trouble, for vain is the help of man. Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who will tread down our enemies.”

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: The Bridegroom Comes, Awake!

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 60 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God of our salvation, in these latter days in which we are afflicted by many trials and tribulations, teach us to rely upon Your help and not our own strength. You alone are the Church’s Savior and deliverer. Grant us faithfulness to cling to Your Word and to rest confidently in Your promises; through the 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	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	24
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	25, 110

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 27: The Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13	
Monday	The Children of Jacob—Genesis 29:31—30:24	John 4:15-30
Tuesday	Laban Agrees to Divide the Livestock with Jacob—Gen. 30:25-43	John 4:31-42
Wednesday	Thanksgiving Eve: Old Testament—Deuteronomy 8:1-10	
Thursday	No School—Thanksgiving: The Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19	
Friday	Thanksgiving Epistle: Philippians 4:6-20	
Saturday	St. Andrew, Apostle —John 1:35-42a	
	Advent 1: The Lord Is Our Righteousness—Jeremiah 23:5-8	Romans 13:8-14

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: In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects for the Week

In Our Prayers this Week

Wedding anniversaries: Bob and Pat Rothe for their 43rd; Rev. Jon and Lynn Leider for their 52nd.

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;

Mason Perez, infant great nephew of Mark and Melody Ruhbusch suffering with viral meningitis.

Roger Laubenstein, Rev. Karl Fabrizio cancer treatment;

Hospice Care: Judy Jones, Francis Sidwell (father of Donna Aufdemberge), and Kurt Scheler.

Collect for the Twenty-seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; 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 the Day of National Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, 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

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (stanza 1)

516

Looking forward to the First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2019

Hymns: 350, 332, 515, 334, 343, 333

Jeremiah 23:5-8: After condemning unfaithful pastors who did not warn the sheep and lead them to the promise of Christ's coming, Jeremiah begins the Old Testament reading for the First Sunday in Advent with the promise of how the Lord will raise up a faithful Shepherd from the House of David, a Branch of righteousness, and a King of ultimate wisdom and justice. That Shepherd is God's only Son, Christ the Lord. He will save His people. He will comfort and defend them. He will be called: "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!" There is no greater and more comforting name to describe what it is that our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in His suffering and death upon the cross.

Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14: With every passing day, the Lord's return in glory draws nearer. The Apostle Paul calls us to awaken from the slumber of impenitence and spiritual sloth. He calls us to "cast off the works of darkness" through confession and to "put on the armor of light" by receiving afresh the Lord's forgiving Word. Only then will we be enabled to walk properly as "children of the day." Only then will we be prepared for the Lord's return. "Put on the Lord Jesus!" He IS our righteousness! "And make no provision for the flesh!"

Matthew 21:1-9: The Passover Lamb. The Son of David. The Christ. The King. The Lord. The lowly servant who rides upon a donkey as a sign that He is the Savior of sinners. Jesus is all this for you! "Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" proclaims Jesus to be everything that the Old Testament Church was looking forward to in the coming of their Messiah. The One whom they lauded and confessed as Savior when He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is the same Lord whose birth we prepare to celebrate, whose Word and Sacrament continue to nurture us, and whose Second Coming we look forward to with great joy and anticipation. This is Advent par excellence: penitential joy that looks forward to the gracious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.