

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
October 18 through October 25, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Luther on Psalm 95 — A Song of Praise to the Rock of Our Salvation—The first seven verses of Psalm 95 has a very familiar place in the church’s regular prayer life in the Venite of the Matins service. Venite means, “Oh come...” and is the call to sing to the LORD who is the Rock of our salvation. In the Scriptures, singing, thanksgiving, a joyful noise, songs of praise, and worship are all actions that confess faith, trust, reliance, and dependence upon the Lord. In Psalm 95, like so many psalms, praising God as the Creator is also linked to confessing and praising Him as our Savior. Psalm 95 confesses Him to be the only God, the one who formed the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains, the sea, and the dry land. The children of Israel sang this song as the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of His hand. The fervent joy of the first portion of the psalm gives way to the warning against unbelief. We are not to harden our hearts against God as the children of Israel in the wilderness. They did not enter His rest because of the impenitence of unbelief. Therefore, let us heed the warning and continue to “sing to the Lord” for He is “the Rock of our salvation.”

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 Has the Authority to Forgive Our Sins!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Genesis 3:15

**I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**

Psalm 95 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, our Creator and Savior, deliver us from hardness of heart, give us true repentance and fervent faith in Your mercy, that we may ever sing to You, the Rock of our salvation; 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	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105
Evening	90	93	94	97	99	102	104	106

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Heals the Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8 St. Luke, Evangelist—2 Timothy 4:5-18	Gal. 3:26—4:7
Monday	Moses Dies on Mount Nebo—Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-12	Galatians 4:8-20
Tuesday	Joshua Takes Moses’ Place and Prepares to Cross the Jordan—Josh 1:1-18	Gal. 4:21-31
Wednesday	Rahab the Harlot Hides the Spies—Joshua 2:1-24	Galatians 5:1-6
Thursday	Israel Crosses over the Jordan—Joshua 3:1-17	Galatians 5:7-15
Friday	Israel Celebrates the Passover in the Promised Land—Joshua 5:10-15 St. James of Jerusalem—James 1:1-12	Romans 3:19-28
Saturday	The Angel with the Everlasting Gospel—Revelation 14:6-7	

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 +
<i>What does this mean?</i> 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

Heavenly Father, You have given us Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, taking all of the punishment that we deserved for our sin upon Himself. He descended into hell, proclaiming His victory over the devil; and on the third day He rose again from the dead, preaching the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in His name to the whole world. We give thanks to You for all that Your Son has done for us. Help us to know and believe in Jesus. He has now ascended into heaven and sits at Your right hand as our Savior and Lord. All the enemies of sin, death, and hell have been placed under His feet and He now rules over all things for the sake of His Church. Give us fervent faith in Jesus and the blessed hope that He will come again to judge the living and the dead, giving the gift of eternal salvation to all who believe in Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Andy Scheler (10/22), Kathy May (10/23).

Wedding Anniversaries: Michael and Angela Christopherson, Jessica and Andrew Alvarez (10/18).

The sick and recovering:

Jim Nitzsche, diagnosed with small cell lung cancer;

Bettirae Weber, diagnosed with liver cancer

Sarah (Scheler) Griffin, diagnosed with thyroid cancer, weighing treatment options;

John & Patrina Boehringer, parents of Beth Boehringer, and Eunice Rankin, diagnosed with Covid-19;

Luise Bollmeyer, Karl Stenke, and David Berger, receiving therapy;

Lenny Schrauth, in treatment for Parkinson's disease and other ailments;

Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS;

Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Harlan Petersen, and Allison Witte in treatment for cancer.

Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; 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 St. Luke, Evangelist

Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments may put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; 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 St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr

Heavenly Father, shepherd of Your people, You raised up James the Just, brother of our Lord, to lead and guide Your Church. Grant that we may follow his example of prayer and reconciliation and be strengthened by the witness of his death; 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

"Through Jesus' Blood and Merit" (stanza 1)

LSB 746

Looking forward to the Reformation

October 25, 2020

Hymns: 656, 942, 948, 555 (1-5), 954, 960, 198, 617, 555 (6-10), 938, 746

Revelation 14:6-7: The first reading for Reformation was chosen because the Lord brought forth the clear preaching of the Gospel of God's free grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. Luther is like an angel "flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach" for the joy and edifying of all Christ's holy people.

Romans 3:19-28: What is "the righteousness of God apart from the Law"? It is the offering of Christ by the Father into the death of the cross for us. The sinless One willingly became the sin bearer and poured out His life-blood under the curse of the Law in order to propitiate (take away and satisfy) God's wrath. For Jesus' sake, God the Father justifies (declares righteous) all whose faith is in Christ. We are justified by grace as a free gift of God in Christ Jesus. What we could not accomplish by the Law because of our sin, Christ accomplished for us in the shedding of His blood on our behalf.

John 8:31-36: What is the Reformation about? More than anything else the Reformation is about the freedom of the Gospel—the unhindered proclamation of the forgiveness of sins. Luther had been tormented during his early life by teachings that only saw God as an angry judge who punished sinners. Obedience to the Church, to Popes and Councils, to the state, to parents, and to God was the overwhelming teaching that was pounded into the people. Some people actually thought they could be obedient and earn God's blessing. But others, like Luther, were terrified in conscience because they knew that they were disobedient and could not even come close to the righteousness that God required. "How can I find a gracious God?" This question became the driving force behind the Lutheran Reformation. Freedom from sin came from the Son alone. "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." The Word of Jesus offers us a new righteousness—the righteousness of His death for our sins.