

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity
November 15 through November 22, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 99—A Prayer to Trust that the Lord Reigns in the Earth—It is difficult to believe that the Lord reigns over all the earth especially when the world in which we live seems so chaotic and the rule of Law and civil justice are turned upside down. The psalmist declares what might appear contrary to human reason: “The Lord reigns; Let the peoples tremble!” God reigns in the civil realm, but not necessarily in the way that we might think is good. Civil authorities may use the power that God grants them for good or evil purposes. Why would He permit injustice and evil? Could it be that the nations of the earth are to suffer the consequences of their godlessness and rebellion against God? Could it be that when the kingdoms of this world oppress the truth, that God raises up His Church to give hope and comfort to the afflicted that the world cannot give? Could it be that when the Church suffers in this world that she is most like her Lord whose suffering and death procured the world’s salvation? Could it be that oppression, persecution, and suffering reveal who is faithful to the Lord and who is not? In the Old Testament, Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were faithful in the face of hostility and opposition both from civil authorities and from false brethren within the Old Testament Church. Throughout their ministries the Lord dwelt between the Cherubim of the Tabernacle for the salvation of His people, and when they called upon Him, He kept His promises and delivered them. There was no civil realm that could overpower them, nor did He ever withhold salvation from them when they called upon Him in repentant faith. They also learned through what they suffered that He was for them the “God-Who-Forgives” and to respond to the evils of their age by worshipping at His holy hill.

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: Civil Authority Is Given by God!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15

From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 99 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, You reign over the nations and are the salvation of Your people during times of persecution, oppression, and injustice. Teach us to call upon You in every trouble and to faithfully worship You as the God-Who-Forgives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27
Evening	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?—Matthew 22:15-22	
Monday	The Birth of Samson—Judges 13:1-25	Ephesians 5:15-21
Tuesday	Samson’s Philistine Wife and His Riddle—Judges 14:1-20	Ephesians 5:22-33
Wednesday	The Foxes, Torches, and the Jawbone of a Donkey—Judges 15:1-20	Ephesians 6:1-9
Thursday	Samson and Delilah—Judges 16:1-31	Philippians 1:1-11
Friday	The Family of Elimelech and Naomi—Ruth 1:1-22	Philippians 1:12-26
Saturday	The New Heavens and New Earth—Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Thess. 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!

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

Baptismal Birthdays: Rev. Matt Uttenreither, Angela Greschner (11/14), Mark Goltermann (11/18), Jim Weber (11/19).

Those in therapy: Karl Stemke, following a stroke

The sick:

Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS;

David Berger's for his continued recovery after a second brain surgery.

Jill Franklin, sister-in-law of Kent, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Sara (Scheler) Griffin for her continued treatment for thyroid cancer.

Bettirae Weber, suffering with liver cancer.

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

Those who mourn: family of Tom Wollen, husband of Verla Gatchell's cousin Valerie.

Collect for the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

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.

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

Hymn of the Week

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 22, 2020

Hymns: 822, 516, 771, 515, 673, 922

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."*