

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 22 through November 29, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 100—A Psalm of Thanksgiving to the Lord—Psalm 100 is a brief psalm of thanksgiving that calls upon all people to praise and give thanks to the Lord for He alone is God, we are the sheep of His pasture, He is good, and His mercy and truth is from everlasting. The familiar hymn, “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” is a devotional hymnic paraphrase of Psalm 100. It receives its hymn name from the psalm itself, “Old Hundredth.” Stanza 2 confesses the truth of our creation and salvation in Christ: “Know that the Lord is God indeed; / Without our aid He did us make. / We are His folk, He doth us feed, / And for His sheep He doth us take” and the final stanza adds a hymnic version of the Gloria Patri: “To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, / The God whom heav’n and earth adore, / From us and from the angel host / Be praise and glory evermore.”

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: Look Up! For Your Redemption Draws Near!

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 100 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40	24,
Evening	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41	25, 110

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13	
Monday	Ruth Gleans Grain in the Field of Boaz—Ruth 2:1-23	Phil. 1:27—2:4
Tuesday	Boaz Decides to Redeem Ruth—Ruth 3:1-18	Philippians 2:5-11
Wednesday	Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption from the Near Kinsman-Ruth 4:1-22	Philippians 2:12-18
Thursday	Thanksgiving Break—Philippians 4:6-20	Luke 17:11-19
Friday	Thanksgiving Break—1 Timothy 2:1-4	
Saturday	Christ is our Righteousness—Jeremiah 23:5-8	Romans 13:11-14

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: 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: Nathan Schneider (11/22), Angela Christopherson, Daniel Schmitt, Thomas Aufdemberge (11/25).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jon and Lynn Leider (11/25), Bob and Pat Rothe (11/27).

Those in therapy: Karl Stemke and David Berger.

The sick:

All those recovering from the Coronavirus.

Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Bettirae Weber, suffering with liver and bone cancer.

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

Those who mourn: Family of Mary Jo Alger (nee: Schumacher), cousin of James Schumacher.

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

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 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

"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" (stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

Hymns: 332, 334, 341

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.