

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 21 through November 28, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 134: A Prayer for Ministers to Be Faithful— “Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord.” How do the servants of the Lord bless the Lord? They faithfully preach His Word. They faithfully call to repentance and proclaim forgiveness. They lift up their hands in the sanctuary, forgiving sin and giving the Lord’s benediction to the congregation of the faithful. Psalm 134 is the final Song of Ascents in the psalter. It was sung by the faithful as they awaited the benediction of the priest. It is as if they were praying for the priests to do their job, to stand by night in the house of the Lord and proclaim His Word. The Lord is “blessed” not by doing something for Him, but by faithfully doing what He has given His priests and pastors to do for the sake of the congregation. It is the same for us today in the New Testament Church. By faithfully preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments, the servants of the Lord bless the Lord by giving to the congregation what they need to hear and receive. In the Old Testament Church, the congregation eagerly waited for the priest to emerge from the Temple, lift up his hands, and pronounce the benediction. In the same way, we pray for our pastors to lift up their hands and “bless the Lord” by faithfully administering His gifts to us.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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 Peter 1:21

Prophecy never came by the will of man,
but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 134 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, give us faithful shepherds who bless You by blessing us with faithful preaching and teaching, and give us hearts to eagerly desire the benediction of Your Holy Word; through 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	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	24
Evening	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	25, 110

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13	
Monday	Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray—Luke 11:1-13	1 Timothy 2:1-8
Tuesday	The Centurion Prays to Jesus for His Servant—Matthew 8:5-13	James 5:13-20
Wednesday	A Canaanite Woman Prays for Her Daughter—Matthew 15:21-28	Ephesians 6:10-20
Thursday	No School—Thanksgiving Day—Luke 12:13-21	Proverbs 2:1-22
Friday	No School—Thanksgiving Break—Philippians 4:6-20	Proverbs 3:1-18
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—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: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects for the Week

In Our Prayers this Week

The Office of the Ministry: *The Lord's guidance and blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and Headmaster.*

Baptism: Hazel Elizabeth Gierach, daughter of Keith and Hannah Gierach, baptized on 11/21/21.

Baptismal Birthdays: Carol Bender (11/21), Nathan Schneider (11/22), Louise Johnson (11/24), Angela Christopherson, Tom Aufdemberge (11/25).

Healing mercies: Michelle Pollinger, sister of Jody Ligrow, home from the hospital.

The Sick: Steve LaSage undergoing testing: members of Erik Krueger's family (mother, stepfather, and brother) hospitalized with Covid-19; Karen Leach, mother of Peggy Lundberg, suffering with spinal compression fractures; Brett Arnold, friends of the Trapps, hospitalized with complication following kidney transplant surgery; Tom Pinzl undergoing further surgery for a blocked kidney and hernia; Jeremy LaFore, and Luise Bollmeyer in continued care. Mary Bero, sister of Marty Bruss, undergoing serious eye surgery.

Cancer treatment: Gabby Hartwig (childhood cancer); Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer); Jim Nitzsche, recovering at home after specialized cancer treatment; James Loker (liver cancer); Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).

Those Who Mourn: the family of John David who was called to his heavenly home last Monday.

Collect for 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 End 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

"Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (stanzas 1-5)

766

Looking forward to the First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

Hymns: 343, 335, 342, 332, 341, 350, 618, 339

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.