

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Reformation

October 30 through November 6, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — This week we celebrate the **Reformation and All Saints' Day**. These two feasts appropriately go together. Reformation celebrates the recovery of the Gospel, that sinners are justified (declared righteous) by grace alone, through faith, for Christ's sake. This justification is what makes all saints "saints." Saints are sinners who are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. This is the teaching of the epistle for Reformation: "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the Law." (Romans 3:21-23, 28) The Gospel for Reformation continues this theme in the words of Jesus: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). The Word of Jesus calls us to repentance and declares us righteous on account of what He has done for us in His death upon the cross. The righteousness of Christ—the forgiveness of all our sins—is received by faith alone and sets us free from punishment and the judgment of the Law to live in the joyous freedom that only Christ's forgiving Word can give us. These celebrations correspond well with the Bible readings for the week that orbit around Abraham. Abraham was called to faith by a promise. He believed in the promise and the Lord reckoned him righteous on account of the Promised Seed.

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 Truth of the Gospel Shall Set You Free!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Psalm 46 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need, because You loved us and gave Your only begotten Son to suffer and die for our salvation. Grant us a firm faith in You that we might rest in the sure and certain promises of the Gospel which cannot fail us; 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	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5
Evening	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Reformation Celebrated: John 8:31-36	
Monday	God's Covenant with Abram—Promise of a Son—Gen. 15:1-6	Galatians 2:16; 3:6-9
Tuesday	Hagar and Ishmael—Genesis 16:1-16	Galatians 3:19—4:7
Wednesday	All Saints' Day Celebrated —Clothed in Christ—Rev. 7:9-17	1 John 3:1-3
Thursday	Circumcision and Abram's Name Change—Gen. 17:1-11 (12-14)	Romans 4:1-3, 7-13
Friday	Sarai's Name Change—Genesis 17:15-27	Romans 4:13-25
Saturday	Trinity 25: The Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-20	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Catechism: The Creed—The Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	First Grade +
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Reformation (October 31)

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 All Saints' Day (November 1)

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

The 60th Anniversary of Peace

Baptismal Anniversaries: Lydia Schneider (10/30), Timothy Gierach (10/31), Rev. Bob Johnson (11/1), John Uttenreither (11/2), Nancy LaFore (11/5).

Wedding Anniversaries: Paul and Theresa Schneider (11/1), Elton and Angela Volquardsen (11/5).

The Sick: Thanksgiving for Kay Trapp's successful cancer surgery and no evidence of further cancer; Don Fell undergoing evaluation of breathing difficulties; Paul Schmidt in therapy following a leg amputation; Jamilyn Martin (friend of Megan Braunschweig) receiving treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma; Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

Those who mourn: Cheryl Thompson upon the death of her husband Ronald (stepfather of Sherry Larson)

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

Hymn of the Week

"Behold a Host, Arrayed in White" (stanza 1)

TLH 656

Looking forward to the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity

November 6, 2022

Hymns: 511, 336, 513, 583, 647, 639, 509

Exodus 32:1-20: *Israel's idolatry with the Golden Calf not only was an abomination of God's people, it also caused great desolation for them. Through the desolation they would suffer because of this act of spiritual adultery, God would work His salvation through the promise of Him who would come to suffer the consequences of their abominable corruption in His death upon the cross.*

I Thessalonians 4:13-18: *Paul comforts us in the grief over the death of Christians by pointing us to the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of all the dead when Christ returns again in glory. The first to be resurrected are those Christians who have already died in the Lord. After that, those Christians who are living on earth at the time of Jesus' Second Coming will also rise to immortality and incorruption. Then we will be caught up with the Lord and ever remain with Him in His eternal comfort.*

Luke 17:20-30: *It is of great comfort to know that the Kingdom of God is not like any earthly kingdom that can be seen and observed with its civil rulers, great armies, or vast lands. Instead, the Kingdom of God is what Holy Scripture and the Catechism teach: "when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity." The kingdom of God is the gift of faith in Christ that is created and preserved throughout the world in the hearts of Christians, wherever the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are administered. This kingdom can never be destroyed by the kingdoms of this world. We live in this faith and confidence and because of this we have the blessed hope in Christ's Second Coming in which the nations will all see that Jesus is Lord. In the meantime, it looks as if the Church is being destroyed. There will be persecution and suffering for the Kingdom of God, just as Jesus suffered before entering into glory. There will be false Christs and false prophets, but we are not to follow them. We follow the crucified and risen Savior. As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it will be before the coming of our Lord in glory. But our Lord will come again, and we shall rejoice in Him whose victory upon the cross has brought resurrection and eternal life from the dead.*