

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity
 November 6 through November 13, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week —The Faithful Grace of God—After 25 years of waiting, the Lord came to Abraham and Sarah in the form of the **Three Visitors** who announced to them that within the year the Son of the Promise, Isaac, would finally be born. Throughout those 25 years, Abraham and Sarah learned dependence and what it means that “the just shall live by faith” in God’s promise of salvation in Christ (Habakkuk 2:4). The call to Abraham was the call of God’s grace in the Gospel of Christ for all people. For this reason, **Abraham Prays for Sodom**, the wicked city, interceding for the city for the sake of those in the city who were righteous by faith in the promise. In the end, though God is merciful and longsuffering, **Sodom and Gomorrah Are Destroyed** because of the rejection of the Lord’s Word and the refusal to repent. In the story of **Abraham and Abimelech**, we learn that there was truth in Abraham’s previous statements that Sarah was his sister. Though a believer in the promise, Abraham was not immune to the fear that others might kill him for Sarah if they found out that she was his wife. Despite Abraham’s fear, the events surrounding Abraham’s encounter with Abimelech put God’s grace on full display. The Lord promised to protect him, to bless him, and to provide for him, not because of Abraham’s worthiness but because of His love for Abraham and Sarah in the Promise. He promises the same to us in our baptism. By faith in the grace of God, Abimelech appeals to Abraham to intercede for him, and Abraham does pray for Abimelech because of his faith in the promise of God’s grace. **Isaac is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out** is a story that illustrates God’s faithfulness and grace in the birth of the Son of the Promise, but yet appears too harsh in the casting out of Ishmael. What does this mean? Ishmael is cast out, not because the call of God’s grace is not for him, but rather to teach that salvation is entirely based upon God’s grace in the promise and not at all upon any work of man or standing in the family. The Scriptures develop this theme in the New Testament, Galatians 4:21-31, wherein the son of the bondwoman illustrates an attempt to gain salvation according to the works of the Law from Mount Sinai verses the gift of salvation by grace that comes from the Son of the Promise from the heavenly Jerusalem. When it comes to our salvation, there can be no mingling together of works and grace. Salvation comes by grace alone.

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 Kingdom of God Is in Your Midst.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Ephesians 2:1

You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Psalm 104:24-35 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: God, who in six days made all the creatures and ordered them for the benefit of man, You are worthy of praise. Teach us to know that You are the author of all that is, and grant that we may never abuse Your creation to our own destruction but use all of creation to Your glory and our welfare, through Jesus Christ. 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	Trinity 25: “As in the Days of Noah”—Luke 17:20-30	
Monday	The Three Visitors—Genesis 18:1-15	Hebrews 11:8-16
Tuesday	Abraham Prays for Sodom—Genesis 18:16-33	1 Cor. 5:9-11; 6:9-11
Wednesday	Sodom and Gomorrah Are Destroyed—Genesis 19:1 (2-11) 12-29	Matthew 11:20-30
Thursday	Abraham and Abimelech—Genesis 20:1-18	James 5:13-20
Friday	Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out—Genesis 21:1-21	Galatians 4:21-31
Saturday	Trinity 26: The Ancient of Days—Daniel 7:9-14	2 Peter 3:3-14

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: In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Caleb Gierach (11/6), Donna Lovas (11/7), Autumn Christopherson, Mark Meyle (11/9), Zoë LaFore (11/10), Derek Larson (11/11), Eric Kütemeier (11/12).

Wedding Anniversaries: Lyle and Jan Wollin (11/7), Matt and Verla Gatchell (11/12).

Those Who Serve in the Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Robert Haga and Mark Meyle (Marines); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither (Army).

The Sick: Marcy Gall following hospitalization; David Berger undergoing heart valve replacement surgery 11/8; Peyton (4 y/o son of Rev. & Mrs. David Locklair) receiving chemotherapy for retinoblastoma; 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: family and friends of Chris Luedtke (father of Stacia Luedtke, friend of Joshua Franklin)

Collect for the Twenty Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; 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

"The God of Abraham Praise" (stanzas 1 and 8)

798

Looking forward to the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity November 13, 2022

Hymns: 850, 508, 851, 920, 823, 673

Daniel 7:9-14: Daniel sees into the future a vision of the final judgment. The glorious image of God the Father, the Ancient of Days, is seated upon His throne. "One like the Son of Man"—our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son—will come with the clouds to the Ancient of Days and receive from the Father eternal glory and dominion. In that day, "all peoples, nations, and languages" will worship Christ and His kingdom will never pass away.

2 Peter 3:3-14: The Apostle Peter could not be more accurate in describing the very times in which we live. There are scoffers who think that what Christians believe concerning Christ and His Second Coming are utter nonsense. They look at how the world has continued, century after century, and they reject any notion of the existence of God or the truthfulness of Christ's promises to His Church. Peter asserts that the Word of God that brought the heavens into existence and that created and recreated the world through water will keep His promises. The eternal God of salvation has a different timetable from finite men. "With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." He will keep His promises to us. The world continues until just the right time of Christ's return, because He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Peter encourages us to "look up" and to wait patiently for Christ's return, knowing that in that day both the heavens and the earth will be transformed in which the righteousness of Christ will endure forever.

Matthew 25:31-46: Jesus gives us a picture of the last judgment. When He returns in glory with all His holy angels, He will sit upon the throne of His glory, all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate believers in Christ (the sheep) from unbelievers (the goats). Believers in Christ will hear the result of Christ's forgiveness that they have believed: "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Unbelievers, who have rejected Christ and despised His forgiveness, will hear: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and all His angels." In the picture Jesus paints, both the sheep and the goats are shocked that Jesus draws attention to what they have or have not done. Since Christians do not trust in their works for salvation, they are shocked when Jesus refers to them in the judgment. Since unbelievers DO trust in their works, they are shocked to hear that they have done nothing deserving of salvation. Works do not save us, but they do testify to the faith of our heart. The works that are truly "good works" are those done entirely out of faith in God's mercy in Christ. These works are not produced by our own goodness or moral strength; rather, they are the fruits of God's good work of love and forgiveness that we have received. Since they are the fruits of faith—a faith that is entirely fixed upon Jesus—the believer may not even be aware of these works because his faith is fixed upon Christ for salvation. This explains their reply to Jesus in the judgment: "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?" From this we learn that our faith must be always fixed upon Jesus who first fed us, clothed us, and came to our aid in His work of salvation, only then will the works of faith be manifest in us.