

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity  
October 8 through October 15, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — We Bear Witness Through Our Infirmity** — “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise” 1 Corinthians 1:27. “Unless we are weak Christ cannot exercise His strength on us. If it were our strength and power with which we resist our enemies, we should have the glory and not Christ. But experience teaches us that we are not such as can help themselves, but God must do it. Thus God is glorified in our infirmity. The Lord Christ comforts us in that we know for certain that at times we shall be weak while our enemies are strong and boastful, but Christ wins the victory in the end. Thus God deals with us when we ourselves and all that we stand for are yielding and going to pieces before the world, when we are outwardly weak in the eyes of the world, or when each single Christian is hard-pressed, so that we are not afraid or dispirited. Here we learn that our Lord God does not jest when He feigns to be weak, but is in earnest, for He will cast down the mighty through the weak and will exalt the weak. But we must not look upon these things with the eyes of worldly reason, as is generally done, or we shall be lost. We must know that it is God’s will to overcome the mighty through the weak. We must believe this and straightway shut our eyes.” – Martin Luther

## 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: Love the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

#### Psalm 34:8-22 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, there is no want to those whose faith and hope is in You. Grant us daily to praise Your holy name, to call upon You for all our needs, and to taste of Your divine goodness in the Gospel and Sacraments that we may learn to believe that those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit shall be saved, and that no one who trusts in You shall be condemned; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Which Is the Greatest Commandment? —Matthew 22:34-46</b>	
Monday	The Budding of Aaron’s Rod—Numbers 16:41—17:13	Hebrews 12:25-29
Tuesday	Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)	Hebrews 13:1-6
Wednesday	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9	Hebrews 13:7-25
Thursday	Balaam’s Donkey (Part 1)—Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38	Galatians 1:1-10
Friday	Balaam’s Donkey (Part 2)—(survey ch. 23 and 24) 24:10-13 (14-19) 25	Galatians 1:11-24
Saturday	The Lord Promises Salvation to Jacob—Genesis 28:10-17	Ephesians 4:22-28

### The Catechism: The Creed—The First Article

What is the First Article of the Creed?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;  
that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,  
my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.  
He also gives me clothing and shoes,  
food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

First Grade +

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.  
He defends me against all danger  
and guards and protects me from all evil.  
All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,  
without any merit or worthiness in me.  
For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.  
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

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

**Prayer on the First Article**

Heavenly Father, You are God Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We give thanks to You that you have made us and all creatures; that You have given us our bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and that You still take care of them. You also give us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all we have. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in our body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do for us out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe that this is most certainly true, and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You as long as we live. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

O God, because without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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)

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Russell Sawatzki, Rachel Haga, Brian Knutson (10/8), Jim Wollin (10/9), Jan Wollin (10/14).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Dean and Kristi Hertzberg, Ted and Kristin Dhein (10/9), Kurt and Cyndi Ruhna (10/10).

**The Sick:** Rev. Luke Boehringer (brother of Beth Boehringer) diagnosed with abdominal cancer; Felicity Daleiden recovering from a minor skull fracture; Debbie Christopherson and Jennifer Scheler recovering from surgery; Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe, Al Gabel and Shirley Weber recovering from injuries following a fall; Amy Bruss struggling with stroke related mobility issues; Konner and Travis, recovering from serious injuries from a motorcycle accident; Kathy May in follow-up treatment after cancer surgery.

**Those in Cancer Treatment:** Michael (friend of Anna & David Steinhilb) diagnosed with lung cancer; Rev. Dr. John Wille, Kathleen Hetzel, Dennis Michaelis, Kathy Miller, and Gabby Hartwig.

**Those Who Mourn:** family and friends of Ferdinand Schulz (father of Anne Schumacher), and Connie Telschow (friend of the Christiansen family).

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay" (stanza 1—"Triune God")**

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**Looking forward to the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**October 15, 2023**

**Hymns:** 885 (1-4), 708, 610, 620, 814, 748, 885 (5-8)

**Genesis 28:10-17:** In Jacob's dream at Bethel, the Lord came to him and reaffirmed the promise of salvation through the coming Messiah: "in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." This is why Jacob confessed, "Surely the Lord is in this place...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" Wherever the saving Word of the Gospel is proclaimed, THERE is the very presence of the Lord Himself for the salvation of His people. The Lord's Word is our comfort too: "I am the Lord God of Abraham...I am with you and will keep you wherever you go..."

**Ephesians 4:22-28:** The Holy Spirit renews our faith and life in Christ through His Word of grace and mercy in Jesus.

**Matthew 9:1-8:** A paralyzed man is the perfect image of humanity who cannot save itself from the bondage and paralysis of sin. The paralytic had to be brought to Jesus. We have to be brought to Jesus. His greatest problem was not physical paralysis, but the problem of sin which was the cause of all his maladies. It is the same for us. Jesus' word addressed the real problem: "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." It is this word that the self-righteous scribes objected to. They accused Jesus of blasphemy: using the power of God that He had no right to use. They were wrong. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins because He came into the world to pay the ultimate price for sin. The scribes had no power to make a man walk or to take away a man's sin. It was impossible for them. It is impossible for us. But Jesus had the power to do both. To teach them that He had the power to forgive sins, He made the man to arise and walk. What none of us could do, Jesus did. He has now given the power to forgive sins to His Church, so that paralyzed and broken sinners might be set free and reconciled to God. "When the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men." Thanks be to God that Jesus power and authority to forgive sins is found in the Church where His Gospel is preached and His sacraments are administered. In Christ's absolution, sinners are set free from bondage and reconciled to God.