

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity  
October 15 through October 22, 2023*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — St. Luke, the Evangelist** — “St. Luke, the beloved physician referred to by St. Paul (Colossians 4:14), presents us with Jesus, whose blood provides the medicine of immortality. As his traveling companion, Paul claimed Luke’s Gospel as his own for its healing of souls. Luke traveled with Paul during the second missionary journey, joining him after Paul received his Macedonian call to bring the Gospel to Europe (Acts 16:10-17). Luke most likely stayed behind in Philippi for seven years, rejoining Paul at the end of the third missionary journey in Macedonia. He traveled with Paul to Troas, Jerusalem, and Caesarea, where Paul was imprisoned for two years (Acts 20:5–21:18). While in Caesarea, Luke may have researched material that he used in his Gospel. Afterward, Luke accompanied Paul on his journey to Rome (Acts 27:1–28:16). Especially beloved in Luke’s Gospel are the stories of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), and the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). Only Luke provides a detailed account of Christ’s birth (Luke 2:1-20) and the canticles of Mary (Luke 1:46-55), of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79, and of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32). To show how Christ continued His work in the Early Church through the apostles, Luke also penned the Acts of the Apostles. More than one-third of the New Testament comes from the hand of the evangelist Luke.” – *Treasury of Daily Prayer*

## **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: Be of Good Cheer! Your Sins Are Forgiven!**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles’ Creed**

#### **Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15**

**This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.**

#### **Psalms 84 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, the congregation of Christians, among whom the Gospel is preached and the Holy Sacraments are administered to the baptized faithful, is the most lovely place of Your saving presence. Give us grace to ever dwell in Your house where You strengthen our faith, enliven our hope, and shield us from every enemy. Hear our prayers and teach us to rely with absolute confidence upon your gracious promises, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92
Evening	79	81	83	86	87	90	93	94

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>Jesus Heals the Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8</b>	
Monday	The Sin of Peor—Numbers 25:1-18	Galatians 2:1-10
Tuesday	Joshua Is Ordained to Take Moses’ Place—Numbers 27:12-23	Galatians 2:11-21
Wednesday	Moses Reminds the People of God’s Law—Dt. 1:1a, 3; 5:1-11a, 12, 16-22 <b>St. Luke, Evangelist—2 Timothy 4:5-18</b>	Galatians 3:1-9
Thursday	Moses Warns the People Against Rebelling—Deuteronomy 5:32—6:25	Galatians 3:10-14
Friday	The Lord Will Raise Up a Prophet Like Moses—Deuteronomy 18:9-22	Galatians 3:15-25
Saturday	The Call of God’s Grace—Isaiah 55:1-9	Ephesians 5:15-21

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

What is the First Article of the Creed? <b>I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.</b>	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, Collects for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace**

**Thanksgiving for God's Creation**

Heavenly Father, Your Word gives life and has created and sustains all things. We thank You for the sun, the moon, and the stars which give light to the earth and order our days and seasons. We give thanks to You for the expanse of the sky, for the water that sustains all of life, and for the dry land upon which we live. We give thanks to You for the plants and animals of Your creation. You have given all of this to us for our good and for our enjoyment. We give thanks to You that You have created us in Your image, male and female, to be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion over the creation. We thank You for ordering our lives and giving us rest and refreshment through Your Word. But most of all, we thank You for redeeming us and all of creation from sin and death through the gift of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to trust in You as our Creator and to believe in Your Son for eternal life and salvation, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty and merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep from us all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever You would have us do; 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 St. Luke, the Evangelist**

Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments may put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; 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)

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Mike and Angela Christopherson, Andrew and Jessica Alvarez (10/18).

**Thanksgiving for the preservation of life:** Wallace Francis, Jr. (brother of Cheri` LaFore)

**The Sick:** David Steinhilb having a biopsy this week; 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.

**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.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"In God, My Faithful God" (stanzas 1-2)**

745

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

**October 22, 2023**

**Hymns:** 636 (1-4), 699, 636 (5-8), 563, 830, 598

**Isaiah 55:1-9:** The Lord, through the prophet Isaiah, emphasizes that the message of the Gospel is, the message of salvation for sinners by grace alone. Salvation cannot be purchased with our money or good works; it must be received by faith from that One who has done all for us. "'My thoughts are not your thoughts,' says the Lord" is a reference to the fact that human thoughts always tend to be governed by works-righteousness when it comes to salvation. God's thoughts are always governed by grace. It is precisely because His thoughts toward us are governed by grace that we may "Seek the Lord" and "Call upon Him" in every need and struggle with sin.

**Ephesians 5:15-21:** "Walking" is used throughout the Scriptures as a euphemism for faith. This is because faith in Christ is characterized by all kinds of external things that create and sustain faith as well as give expression to that faith outwardly. We are "followers" of Jesus. We listen to His Word. We pray, worship, confess, and live in Christ's forgiveness with others. These are real expressions of our faith in Christ as "followers" of Jesus. We do NOT follow the beliefs, ways, and practices of the world because we do NOT believe in these things. This helps us understand Paul's catechesis in this week's epistle: "See then that you walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation [pouring out your faith upon the ground]; but be filled with the Spirit [who fills us through the hearing of the Word of God], speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father

**Matthew 22:1-14:** "This parable concerns the preaching of the Gospel down through the ages. Many have heard the call to repentance and faith in Christ. Some refuse to believe the Gospel because they are occupied with the cares of this world. Others refuse to believe because they will not confess their sin, and so they abuse the messengers who proclaim it. The call of the Gospel goes out indiscriminately to all people, even the so-called "bad and good," that they might shed their own clothing of unrighteousness and be clothed in the garment of Christ's righteousness, apart from which they cannot be saved. God's judgment falls upon all who will not repent." (Excerpted from N.T. Catechesis)