

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity  
October 22 through October 29, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr**—St. James of Jerusalem (or “James the Just”) is referred to by St. Paul as “the Lord’s brother” (Galatians 1:19). Some modern theologians believe that James was a son of Joseph and Mary and, therefore, a biological brother of Jesus. But throughout most of the Church (historically, and even today), Paul’s term “brother” is understood as “cousin” or “kinsman,” and James is thought to be the son of a sister of Joseph or Mary who was widowed and had come to live with them. Along with other relatives of our Lord (except His mother), James did not believe in Jesus until after His resurrection (John 7:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:7). After becoming a Christian, James was elevated to a position of leadership within the earliest Christian community. Especially following St. Peter’s departure from Jerusalem, James was recognized as the bishop of the Church in that holy city (Acts 12:17; 15:12ff). According to the historian Josephus, James was martyred in AD 62 by being stoned to death by the Sadducees. James authored the Epistle in the New Testament that bears his name. In it, he exhorts his readers to remain steadfast in the one true faith, even in the face of suffering and temptation, and to live by faith the life that is in Christ Jesus. Such a faith, he makes clear, is a busy and active thing, which never ceases to do good, to confess the Gospel by words and actions, and to stake its life, both now and forever, in the cross. (*Treasury of Daily Prayer*, page 841)

## 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: All Things Are Ready! Come to the Feast!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

#### Psalm 48 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, You have created and preserved Your Church as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit in the beauty of Your righteousness. We give thanks to You for our protection and preservation. You will build and defend Your Holy Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against her. You are our God, forever and ever. Be our guide even to death that many may behold Your love and be brought into Your holy mountain; 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	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109
Evening	94	97	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14</b>	
Monday	Moses Dies on Mount Nebo—Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-12 <b>St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr—James 1:1-12</b>	Gal. 3:26—4:7
Tuesday	Joshua Takes Moses’ Place & Prepares to Cross the Jordan—Josh 1:1-18	Galatians 4:8-20
Wednesday	Rahab the Harlot Hides the Spies—Joshua 2:1-24	Galatians 4:21-31
Thursday	Israel Crosses over the Jordan—Joshua 3:1-17	Galatians 5:1-6
Friday	Israel Celebrates the Passover in the Promised Land—Joshua 5:10-15	Galatians 5:7-15
Saturday	Reformation Readings: Revelation 14:6-7 <b>St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles—John 15:17-21</b>	Romans 3:19-28

### The Catechism: The Creed—The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

**And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...**

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i>  I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,  and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,  who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins,  from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver,  but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,</p>	First Grade +
<p>That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom  and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

**Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

*O Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; 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. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr (October 23)**

*Heavenly Father, shepherd of Your people, You raised up James the Just, brother of our Lord, to lead and guide Your Church. Grant that we may follow his example of prayer and reconciliation and be strengthened by the witness of his death; 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. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles (October 28)**

*Almighty God, You chose Your servants Simon and Jude to be numbered among the glorious company of the apostles. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

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

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Joel Ohman, Radine Ohman, Kathy May, Brian Brendel (10/23), Al Gabel, Joanne LaSage, Lindsey Weber, Chuck Finke, Delaney DiPuma (10/25).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Brad & Jenny Larson (10/22), Jeff & Lindsey Kenyon (10/26), Larry & Sharon Martin, Matt & Sarah Damato (10/28).

**Baptism:** Nathan Andrew Scheler (grandson of Alex & Jennifer Scheler) at Brookfield Lutheran Church on October 22.

**The Sick:** David Steinhilb having a biopsy this week; Rev. Luke Boehringer (brother of Beth Boehringer) diagnosed with abdominal cancer; 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**

**"Through Jesus' Blood and Merit" (stanza 1)**

746

**Looking forward to Reformation Sunday**

**October 29, 2023**

**Hymns: 656, 555, 566, 585, 578, 655**

**Revelation 14:6-7:** *The first reading for Reformation was chosen because the Lord brought forth the clear preaching of the Gospel of God's free grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. Luther is like an angel "flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach" for the joy and edifying of all Christ's holy people.*

**Romans 3:19-28:** *What is "the righteousness of God apart from the Law"? It is the offering of Christ by the Father into the death of the cross for us. The sinless One willingly became the sin bearer and poured out His lifeblood under the curse of the Law in order to propitiate (take away and satisfy) God's wrath. For Jesus' sake, God the Father justifies (declares righteous) all whose faith is in Christ. We are justified by grace as a free gift of God in Christ Jesus. What we could not accomplish by the Law because of our sin, Christ accomplished for us in the shedding of His blood on our behalf.*

**John 8:31-36:** *What is the Reformation about? More than anything else the Reformation is about the freedom of the Gospel—the unhindered proclamation of the forgiveness of sins. Luther had been tormented during his early life by teachings that only saw God as an angry judge who punished sinners. Obedience to the Church, to Popes and Councils, to the state, to parents, and to God was the overwhelming teaching that was pounded into the people. Some people actually thought they could be obedient and earn God's blessing. But others, like Luther, were terrified in conscience because they knew that they were disobedient and could not even come close to the righteousness that God required. "How can I find a gracious God?" This question became the driving force behind the Lutheran Reformation. Freedom from sin came from the Son alone. "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." The Word of Jesus offers us a new righteousness—the righteousness of His death for our sins.*