

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Reformation
October 29 through November 5, 2023

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." We 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." 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 the punishment and the judgment of the Law to live in the joyous freedom that only Christ's forgiving Word can give us.

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 Word of the Gospel Sets Us Free from Sin, Satan, and Death!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

[God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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 have so loved us that You 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	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152
Evening	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Truth Will Set You Free—John 8:31-36	
Monday	The Destruction of Jericho—Joshua 6:1-27	Galatians 5:16-26
Tuesday	The Sin of Achan—Joshua 7:1-26 Reformation —Romans 3:19-28	Galatians 6:1-10
Wednesday	The Fall of Ai—Joshua 8:1-29 All Saints' Day —Matthew 5:1-12	Galatians 6:11-18
Thursday	The Sun and Moon Stand Still—Joshua 10:1-15 (16-28)	Ephesians 1:1-12
Friday	Joshua's Conquests—Joshua 11:15-20; 13:1-7; 18:1-2, 10; 21:43-45	Ephesians 1:12-23
Saturday	To Do Justly and to Love Mercy—Micah 6:6-8	Philippians 1:3-11

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></p> <p>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: Catechism Prayer, Collects for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Prayer on the Second Article

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Second Article of the Creed You teach us that Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the greatest gift of Your love for us. He is truly God, begotten of You from eternity, and He is truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He has become our Lord and Savior by redeeming us from all sins, death, and from the power of the devil with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. We no longer belong to the devil. Sin and death have no power over us. Jesus did all this that we might be His own, and that we might live under Him in His kingdom in the protection and safety of His everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for all eternity. For all that Jesus has done for us we give you thanks and praise. Forgive us for trusting in any work of our own for salvation. Forgive us for doubting your love and the precious gift of forgiveness we have in Jesus. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe with absolute confidence that our sins are forgiven and that we stand righteous before You for Jesus' sake because He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Paul Kachelmeyer (10/29), Lydia Schneider (10/30), Timothy Gierach (10/31), Rev. Robert Johnson (11/1), John Uttenreither (11/2).

Wedding Anniversaries: Kevin and Valerie Zalewski (11/2).

The Sick: Bob Zaretske recovering from a fall and pneumonia; Patty Rothe in rehab with a broken leg; 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

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" (stanzas 1-5)

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Looking forward to the Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

November 5, 2023

Hymns: 940, 611, 609, 616, 696, 766 (Stanzas 1, 4, 6, 9)

Micah 6:6-8: "To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" is what the Lord says is good. It is a description of faith in Christ. To know Christ is to love mercy. To walk humbly with your God is to trust in Jesus by confessing one's sin and clinging to His forgiveness. To love mercy is to believe in it as the most important gift we have from God through Christ.

Philippians 1:3-11: Paul speaks to the Philippians in thanksgiving to God for their "fellowship in the Gospel" with him. To have "fellowship in the Gospel" is to share the common faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins by grace alone and not by the works of the Law. This "fellowship in the Gospel" is characterized by the life of mercy and unconditional love toward brothers and sisters within the household of faith that covers their sin with forgiveness that is freely and unbegrudgingly given.

Matthew 18:21-35: The parable of the Unmerciful Servant teaches us that in the death of His Son, God has forgiven us a debt that we could not pay. This parable teaches the baptized that forgiveness for those who trespass against us flows from faith in Christ's undeserved forgiveness, and that the refusal to forgive those who trespass against us is a denial of faith in Christ and a rejection of His forgiveness. He forgives us freely by the merits of Jesus alone, that we might live in that free gift of forgiveness especially toward those who have sinned against us. Christians should be taught to expect such upheaval from within and without. As it was in the days of John the Baptist when multitudes were being brought to faith, so it will be in our own day.