

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity
 November 5 through November 12, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Third Article of the Creed and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit — “Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and completed; Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work had remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation. Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves... Further we believe that in this Christian church we have the forgiveness of sins, which is granted through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire Gospel. Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God’s grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God’s Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin.”— *The Large Catechism, Third Article*

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: Christ’s Forgiveness Is Greater Than Our Sin.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 15:26

When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father,
 the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Psalm 116:12-19 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, grant Your unworthy servants Your grace, that in the hour of our death the adversary may not prevail against us, but that we may be found worthy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant—Matthew 18:21-35	
Monday	Joshua’s Farewell Address—Joshua 23:1-4; 24:2-14	Ephesians 2:1-10
Tuesday	The Death of Joshua—Joshua 24:13-31	Ephesians 2:11-18
Wednesday	The Conquest of Canaan Continues—Judges 1:1-9, 27-33; 2:1-6	Eph. 2:19—3:7
Thursday	Israel’s Unfaithfulness and the Judges—Judges 2:7-23	Ephesians 3:8-13
Friday	Othniel, Israel’s First Judge—Judges 3:7-11	Ephesians 3:14-21
Saturday	The Excellence of Wisdom—Proverbs 8:11-22	Phil. 3:17-21

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></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.</p> <p>This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Third Article

O Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son to give life and salvation to the world, and who, together with the Father and the Son, we worship and glorify as the only true God, receive our thanks and praise for proclaiming Christ to us through the preaching of the Gospel and gifts of the holy sacraments. Faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, and love for God and our enemies are all Your creations and gifts to us through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus. Preserve the holy Christian Church among us through the faithful preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Bless the communion of saints that every baptized Christian, sharing in Christ's love through His forgiveness, might abide in Christ and bear witness to His love in all that we do and say. Give us firm hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, so that we might faithfully endure persecution for Jesus' sake and suffer all, even death itself, rather than fall away from Him who gave His life for us. Hear us, O Holy Spirit, for You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; 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: Nancy LaFore, Sierra Meyer (11/5), Caleb Gierach (11/6), Donna Lovas (11/7), Autumn Christopherson (11/9), Zoë LaFore (11/10), Derek Larson (11/11).

Wedding Anniversaries: Elton and Angela Volquardsen (11/5), Lyle and Jan Wollin (11/7).

Military: Navy Ensign Parker Ellis (son of a friend of Kent/Christine Franklin) just deployed to parts unknown.

The Sick: Keith Kunkel recovering from hip surgery; Jean Reuss, (Duessler family member) recovering from brain surgery; Bob Zaretzke recovering from pneumonia; Patty Rothe in rehab with a broken leg; Amy Bruss struggling with stroke related mobility issues; Konner and Travis, recovering from serious injuries from a motorcycle accident.

Those in Cancer Treatment: Rev. Luke Boehringer (brother of Beth Boehringer); 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

"For All the Saints" (stanzas 1-4)

677

Looking forward to the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

November 12, 2023

Hymns: 500, 714, 850, 781, 617, 621

Proverbs 8:11-22: This Old Testament reading teaches us about "wisdom" and "personifies" wisdom as if he is a person. Of course, this wisdom is personified in the person of Christ. "Wisdom" has guided kings and the course of human history. At the heart of Solomon's catechesis is the assertion that "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil." This helps to define the meaning of Psalm 111:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." At the heart of the fear of the Lord is "to hate evil!" This is what faith in Christ gives us. Where there is "fear of the Lord" there is "the hatred of evil" and of all that is contrary to God's Word.

Philippians 3:17-21: Paul's words condemn the power-hungry Pharisees who use the pretense of "obedience to the law" as a means to satisfy the appetites of their bellies. In place of such folly, Paul directs us to remember that our citizenship is in heaven and that we eagerly await our Savior and the resurrection of our bodies from the dead.

Matthew 22:15-22: The Pharisees did not really care about morality or doing what was right in the eyes of God. They only cared about power and influence. The Pharisees were political animals, so they questioned Jesus about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. All their flattery of Jesus was nothing more than a ruse. They hated Him and they hated what He preached. Jesus out-dueled the rhetoric of the Pharisees. He perceived their wickedness. He asked to see the tax money and asked them about whose inscription appeared on the coin. It was the inscription of Caesar! All the boasting and coveting of the Pharisees for political power could not change the fact that the Romans ruled, and the Pharisees had no real power at all. How wonderful! Jesus' reply silenced them. They hoped to trap Him in a contradiction. Will He show loyalty to Rome or loyalty to the government? His answer carefully showed proper obedience to both: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." Matthew records that even the Pharisees who hated Jesus marveled at His words. He silenced them. He gave honor to God at the same time He acknowledged the proper place of the civil authority. In this Gospel, Jesus shows Himself to be superior to all political authority as He gives honor and glory to God without compromise and acknowledges that God works through the civil authorities to accomplish His purposes.