

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity
 November 12 through November 19, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Two Meditations on the Book of Judges for This Week:

Deborah the Prophetess Judges Israel — “In Deborah we see a picture of the Church. She seeks men to hear the Word of God and believe it. When Brak would not trust the Word of the LORD, Deborah spoke of the woman who would cling fast to the Word and destroy the oppressor of Israel. So it is that Jael serves as a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary who heard the Word and believed. The Word of God and our faith is our victory over Satan. Jael took a wooden tent peg to crush the head of Sisera just as Jesus’ heel would crush the head of the serpent by the wood of the cross. The Seed of the woman has defeated sin and death for us. As Jael gave her enemy milk, so we serve the milk of the Word that it may overcome our enemy until he is finally cast into the outer darkness.”

The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon — “The Angel of the LORD came to Gideon at the winepress to indicate that He had been threshing Israel and crushing them like grain or grapes that He might produce better wine. The wine and wheat remind us of the Blessed Sacrament by which the LORD is with us as we share in His sufferings that we might also share in His glory. We are called to cling to the Word of the LORD by faith, as did Gideon. That his faith might be strengthened, Gideon asked for a sign in accordance with the LORD’s mercy. In mercy God has recognized our fleshly weakness and given us the signs of Baptism and the Supper that we might cling to His Word of promise. The sacrifice of the goat and the unleavened bread reminded Gideon of Passover, but also anticipated the sacrifice of Christ. The Angel of the LORD would take on flesh that the staff of the cross might consume Him. Indeed, the rock of sacrifice reminds us that Christ is the Rock of our salvation and the Rock that accompanied Israel in the wilderness. In His resurrection our Lord speaks to us the Word of peace and promises us freedom from the power of death. As Gideon (whose name means “the one who bruises or breaks”) cut down the false god, so Christ has destroyed all gods by the wood of His cross.”
 From *Bible Stories for Daily Prayer: Old Testament Stories—Year II, The Giving of the Law to the Establishing of the Monarchy*, by Karl F. Fabrizio. © Concordia Catechetical Academy 2006. Used by permission.

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: Jesus Is Lord!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:3

No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed,
 and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 111 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?—Matthew 22:15-22	
Monday	Ehud, Israel’s Left-Handed Judge—Judges 3:12-30 (31)	Ephesians 4:1-6
Tuesday	Deborah the Prophetess Judges Israel—Judges 4:1-24	Ephesians 4:7-16
Wednesday	The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon—Judges 6:1 (2-5) 6, 11-27	Ephesians 4:17-24
Thursday	The Sign of the Fleece—Judges 6:28-40	Ephesians 4:25-32
Friday	The Lord Gives Victory to Gideon with 300 Men—Judges 7:1-23	Ephesians 5:1-14
Saturday	The Lord Alone Is Our Comfort—Isaiah 51:9-16	Colossians 1:9-14

The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

<p><i>What is the Third Article of the Creed?</i> 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.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> 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. 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. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Third Article

O Holy Spirit, we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. Call us to faith in Jesus by the Gospel, enlighten us every day with Your gifts of baptism, absolution, and the Lord’s Supper; and sanctify and keep us and the whole Christian Church on earth with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Forgive us our sins every day and give us the blessed hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; 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: Eric Kütemeier (11/12), Isaac Alvarez, Reese DiPuma, Hailee DiPuma (11/13), Angela Greschner, Bryce Ferguson (11/14), Mark Goltermann, Laurie Roe (11/18).

Wedding Anniversaries: Matthew and Verla Gatchell (11/13), Timothy and Cheryl Fischer (11/18).

Those Who Serve in the Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither (Army).

The Sick: Dale Meyer (son-in-law of Bonnie Zeretzke) undergoing cardiac testing; 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. Sue Everhardt, (Gilbert Leon family friend) in hospice care with ovarian cancer.

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

“As Surely as I Live,” God Said (St. 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

November 19, 2023

Hymns: 755, 552 (Stanzas 1, 5-6, 4), 752, 461, 742, 548

Isaiah 51:9-16; Colossians 1:9-14; Matthew 9:18-26

A shroud of darkness engulfs us. Sin, death, and disease threaten to sever us from life’s fullest measure. Without new life in Christ Jesus, there would be no light to dissipate, dispel, or curb grief and sadness. But Jesus has qualified us “to share in the inheritance of the saints of light” delivering us from the dark domain (Col. 1:9–14). “I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand, ...You are my people” (Is. 51:9–16). The presence of Christ, in word, wine, bread, and water, confronts our sinful nature with forgiveness. In the sacraments, God claims us to be His very own children, creating, and sustaining our faith. So in Christ, we humbly receive the words, “your faith has made you well” (Matt. 9:18–26). On the last day God will surely awaken us also from slumber in resurrection glory.