

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity
November 19 through November 26, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Thanksgiving Day Prayer for the Christian Home — Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy church, for our congregation and Academy, for the preaching of the Gospel, for the holy Sacraments; for the lives of all our brothers and sisters in Christ, for the fellowship we share with them, and for the hope of the life to come. We thank You for every spiritual blessing in Christ, and for the abundant gifts of daily bread You shower upon us each day. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service, especially in times of suffering, persecution, and need. Save and defend Your whole church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office in Your Church. Sanctify our homes with Your presence and bless them with joy. Restore those who have wandered from Christ and denied the faith. Keep our children and our grandchildren in the covenant of their Baptism and enable us to bring up our children in lives of faith, devotion, and loving service to others. Let Your blessing remain upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our nation. Take under Your protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. By Your Word and Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness and adversity. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow. We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. We commend all our needs, sorrows, and joys to You with thanksgiving, knowing that You love us in Christ, and have promised to work in all things for our good. Bless our thanksgiving feast today and the fellowship we share; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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: Give Thanks to the Lord for He Is Good and His Mercy Endures Forever!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15

From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 67 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, You bless the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. Prosper the work of farmers and all those who labor to bring food to our table. Grant them seasonable weather that they may gather in the fruits of the earth in abundance and proclaim Your goodness with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32
Evening	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Flow of Blood and a Girl Is Raised—Matthew 9:18-26	
Monday	The Birth of Samson—Judges 13:1-25	Ephesians 5:15-21
Tuesday	Samson's Philistine Wife and His Riddle—Judges 14:1-20	Ephesians 5:22-33
Wednesday	The Foxes, Torches, and the Jawbone of a Donkey—Judges 15:1-20	Ephesians 6:1-9
Thursday	Thanksgiving: The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19	Philippians 4:6-20
Friday	Remember How the Lord Has Led You—Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Proverbs 4:20-27
Saturday	The New Heavens and New Earth—Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Thess. 5:1-11

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

<p>What is the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer? Our Father who art in heaven.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.</p>	First Grade +
<p>What is the First Petition? Hallowed be Thy name.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!</p>	Third Grade +

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

Collect for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; 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: Carol Bender, Hazel Gierach (11/21), Nathan Schneider (11/22), Louise Johnson (11/24), Angela Christopherson, Tom Aufdemberge (11/25).

The Sick: Chase (infant son of Del Duwe's grand-niece) hospitalized with seizures; Doris Erickson diagnosed with Covid; Ron Bero (brother-in-law of Jon & Marty Bruss) hospitalized for medical testing; Jean Reuss, (Duessler family member) recovering from brain surgery and beginning cancer treatment; 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

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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Looking forward to the Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 26, 2023

Hymns: 674, 516, 626, 663, 639, 515, 871

Isaiah 65:17-25: *We are so attached to the things of this world, that the promise of the prophet—that the former things of this world shall not be remembered—may not at first offer comfort. Yet, for the Christian whose hope is in Christ, we long to be rid of the corruption of sin and the devil's temptations that so often entangle us. These are the "former things" that shall not be remembered. In addition, the prophet paints the picture that the new heavens and the new earth will be a life that is lived entirely from the love of God in Christ.*

I Thessalonians 5:1-11: *"Waking" and "sleeping" are synonyms for "faith" and "mistrust." To be "awake" and watchful for the Lord's coming, is to live in eager anticipation of the consummation of our salvation through the hearing of His Word, the receiving of the Sacrament, contrition and repentance, and the life of prayer. To be asleep is to turn away from these things to find one's comfort and happiness in what is passing away.*

Matthew 25:1-13: *Faith in Christ alone makes one wise to salvation. Foolish is the one who casts aside the Gospel of Christ. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins is a parable about faith and unbelief. To believe in Christ is to love Him and long for His coming again in glory, like a faithful bride and her bridesmaids who await the coming of the Bridegroom. Those who do not believe in Christ have no particular yearning or anticipation for the Bridegroom's coming. We go to the Sacrament each week, confessing our sins that we might "learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins, ... so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved." (Small Catechism) To "watch, [that is] pray" is to cry out to our Bridegroom, as His faithful bride, according to the loving promises of His Gospel and the gracious Words of His testament: "take eat, this is My body ... drink of it all of you, this is My blood."*