

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year  
November 26 through December 3, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The End of the Church Year: Watching During the Great Tribulation—**The Bride of Christ, the Holy Christian Church, waits eagerly for her Lord’s Second Coming. Then she, of whom we are all members, will be delivered once and for all from sin and the corruption that is in the world. The “Great Tribulation” of the last days is the struggle that the Church and every Christian in every age has had with the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh. These enemies attack faith in Christ. We, Christ’s Church, have been in the “Last Days” since our Lord’s ascension into heaven. The faith of the Church has always been under attack. Our only defense as Christians is the Word of God and the prayer of faith that claims Christ’s victory in the midst of this suffering.

## 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: Watch and Pray!

### 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 149 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us faithfulness in our worship that we may truly praise You by singing the new song of salvation in Christ, and by faithfully preaching Your Law and Gospel to all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45	24
Evening	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	25, 110

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13</b>	
Monday	Samson and Delilah—Judges 16:1-31	Ephesians 6:10-24
Tuesday	The Family of Elimelech and Naomi—Ruth 1:1-22	Philippians 1:1-11
Wednesday	Ruth Gleans Grain in the Field of Boaz—Ruth 2:1-23	Philippians 1:12-26
Thursday	Boaz Decides to Redeem Ruth—Ruth 3:1-18 <b>St. Andrew, Apostle—John 1:35-42a</b>	Phil. 1:27—2:4
Friday	Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption from the Near Kinsman—Ruth 4:1-22	Philippians 2:5-11
Saturday	Christ is our Righteousness—Jeremiah 23:5-8	Romans 13:8-14

### The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

What is the Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer? <b>Our Father who art in heaven.</b>	Preschool +
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.	First Grade +
What is the First Petition? <b>Hallowed be Thy name.</b>	Preschool +
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.	Second Grade +
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!	Third Grade +

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

### **Prayer on the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism, we became Your dear children and You became our dear Father. You have given us every gift of salvation through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for Jesus' sake have made to us many great and precious promises. We thank You for the gift of forgiveness, for clothing us with the righteousness of Christ, and for making us joint heirs with Your Son of eternal life. Forgive us for doubting Your tender love for us and for not trusting that we are Your dear children in Jesus. Give us confidence in Your Word, boldness to call upon You in prayer for all our needs, and the joy of being Your dearly loved and forgiven children, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer on the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You hallow Your name among us when Your Word is taught in its truth and purity and when we, as Your dear children, also lead holy lives according to it. We give thanks to You for the gift of Your Word; for our pastors, parents, and others who teach it; and for the holy lives of all Your faithful Christians who live according to it. Forgive us for the many ways in which we profane Your holy name among us by failing to teach Your Word in its truth and purity, to pray for our pastors and teachers, or to lead holy lives. Protect us from false doctrine and evil living. Help all who are called to teach and preach Your Word to do so with faithfulness, and grant us to receive Your Word rightly that our lives may be made holy by it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Collect for the Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **Collect for the End of the Church Year**

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

### **Collect for the Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle (November 30)**

Almighty God, by Your grace the apostle Andrew obeyed the call of Your Son to be a disciple. Grant us also to follow the same Lord Jesus Christ in heart and life, 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:** Patty Hasz (11/29), RJ Frerking, Aaron Piper (11/30).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Bob and Pat Rothe (11/27) George and Sue Kaminski (12/2).

**The Sick:** Anna Steinhilb recovering from colon surgery; Dave Evenstad (stepfather of Erik Krueger) in ICU; Kevin Walter (nephew of Shirley Weber) recovering from open heart surgery; Chase (infant son of Del Duwe's grand-niece) hospitalized with seizures; Ron Bero (brother-in-law of Jon & Marti Bruss) hospitalized undergoing 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**

#### **"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" (stanza 1-2)**

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#### **Looking forward to the First Sunday in Advent**

**December 3, 2023**

**Hymns: 341, 332, 334, 359, 350, 331**

**Jeremiah 23:5-8:** After condemning unfaithful pastors who did not warn the sheep and lead them to the promise of Christ's coming, Jeremiah begins the Old Testament reading for the First Sunday in Advent with the promise of how the Lord will raise up a faithful Shepherd from the House of David, a Branch of righteousness, and a King of ultimate wisdom and justice. That Shepherd is God's only Son, Christ the Lord. He will save His people. He will comfort and defend them. He will be called: "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!" There is no greater and more comforting name to describe what it is that our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in His suffering and death upon the cross.

**Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14:** With every passing day, the Lord's return in glory draws nearer. The Apostle Paul calls us to awaken from the slumber of impenitence and spiritual sloth. He calls us to "cast off the works of darkness" through confession and to "put on the armor of light" by receiving afresh the Lord's forgiving Word. Only then will we be enabled to walk properly as "children of the day." Only then will we be prepared for the Lord's return. "Put on the Lord Jesus!" He IS our righteousness! "And make no provision for the flesh!"

**Matthew 21:1-9:** The Passover Lamb. The Son of David. The Christ. The King. The Lord. The lowly servant who rides upon a donkey as a sign that He is the Savior of sinners. Jesus is all this for you! "Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" proclaims Jesus to be everything that the Old Testament Church was looking forward to in the coming of their Messiah. The One whom they lauded and confessed as Savior when He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is the same Lord whose birth we prepare to celebrate, whose Word and Sacrament continue to nurture us, and whose Second Coming we look forward to with great joy and anticipation. This is Advent par excellence: penitential joy that looks forward to the gracious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.