

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 5 through October 12, 2025

The First Article of the Creed and the Historical Account of Creation in Genesis — The Bible verse for this week teaches us that all of creation came into existence by the Word of God and that apart from God's Word nothing exists. The stories of the creation of the heavens and the earth move quickly to the creation of man as the crown of God's creation and the object of God's greatest affection and love. Though man squandered God's free gifts in the creation, God did not abandon His affection and love for us. The story of man's fall into sin is quickly followed by God's first promise of salvation from the devil and the condemnation that this fall brought upon us. This promise is contained in God's Word to the devil: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." The "Seed of the Woman" is the Virgin-born Son of God who crushed the devil's claim upon man when His heel was bruised in His suffering and death upon the cross. This promise of salvation is also accompanied by God's curse of the fall. The curse of the fall was necessary in order that sinful man might come to believe in his need for God. The curse of the fall gives the preaching of the Law its teeth. The Law preaches repentance—revealing the sin and rebellion from which we need God's salvation—and the experience of the curse of the fall teaches us that the problem of sin is real and has separated us from God. It is in this context of the Law's preaching and the experience of our fallen condition that the Gospel enters in to bring forgiveness and comfort, and to raise us up to the new life of faith. By faith in Christ and the promises of salvation through Him, we are enabled to bear up under the curse of the fall until we are delivered from all the suffering of our fallen condition on the last day in the resurrection of the dead.

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 Restores the Dead to Life!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 33:6

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Psalm 30 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 30: O Lord, my faithful God and Savior Jesus Christ, You have never failed to defend, help, and rescue me from my enemies and even the failings of my own making. Work in me daily contrition and repentance, that fleeing from self-reliance I might depend upon You alone for deliverance and rejoice daily in the joy of Your salvation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89
Evening	74	77	79	81	83	86	87	90

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 16: Raising of the Widow of Nain's Son—Luke 7:11-17	
Monday	Paul Speaks in Athens—Acts 17:22-34	Proverbs 4:10-19
Tuesday	Creation—The First Four Days—Genesis 1:1-19	John 1:1-13
Wednesday	Creation—Days Five and Six—Genesis 1:20-31	John 1:14-18
Thursday	Creation—The Day of Rest—Genesis 2:1-7	John 1:19-28
Friday	Creation—Man and the Garden of Eden—Genesis 2:8-25	John 1:29-34
Saturday	Trinity 17: Proverbs 25:6-14	Ephesians 4:1-6

Catechism: The Creed—First Article

What is the First Article of the Creed?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes,

food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

Preschool +

First Grade +

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.
 He defends me against all danger
 and guards and protects me from all evil.
 All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
 without any merit or worthiness in me.
 For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.
 This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

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

Collect for The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal anniversaries: Bethany Franklin (10/6), Debra Christopherson, Philip Gehlbach (10/7), Russel Sawatzki, Rachel Haga (10/8), Jim Wollin (10/9).

Wedding anniversaries: Kent and Christine Frankin, Daniel and Gwyneth Ring (10/5), Jim and Faith Daleiden (10/6), Dean and Kristi Hertzberg, Ted and Kristin Dhein (10/9), Kurt and Cyndi Ruhnu (10/10)

The sick: Melissa Brendel recovering from surgery; Carol David in rehab; Chuck and Jan Finke, Dorothee Behling, and Jon Bruss recovering from accidents.

In cancer treatment: Loretta Lampen, recently diagnosed with stage four cancer, Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Fred Theilacker.

In hospice care: Reed Brown (Brother-in-law to Frank and Rosie Kopleng).

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”

534

Looking forward to The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

October 12, 2025

Hymns: 534, 557, 636, 919, 554

Proverbs 25:6-14: Solomon’s wise sayings reflect, in concrete ways, what living by faith in the Gospel of Christ looks like. We do not exalt ourselves; we live in humility toward one another; we take up grievances with the person with whom we have a concern; and we guard our tongues from gossip and slander. All this is but a reflection of how God in Christ treats us.

Ephesians 4:1-6: To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus means that we walk through our life by faith in Him. Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to “have a walk worthy of the calling” of the Gospel that they have received. Such a “walk” is characterized by humble reliance upon the Gospel by which we are able to bear one another’s burdens with all longsuffering. The “unity of the Spirit” is a reference to holding fast to the common confession of Christian doctrine: There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.”

Luke 14:1-11: How wonderful it is to see Jesus entering into the homes of those who did not believe in Him! The Pharisees rejected Jesus’ mercy for those they deemed unworthy, but that did not prevent Jesus from reaching out to them. In this Gospel, Jesus went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees for dinner on the Sabbath. It appears from the testimony of St. Luke as if nearly everyone was against Him. They watched Him closely to see what He would say or do that they might trap Him in His words or actions. It is worth noting that Jesus does not apologize to them for any way He might have offended them. Instead, He calls them to repentance for their self-righteousness by asking them a question that illuminates the purpose of the Sabbath: to give the rest, peace, and salvation that only God can give. This is why the Old Testament believers were called to “stop working” on the Sabbath, so that God might work in them. So, He asks, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” But they kept silent. Jesus answers His own question by healing the man and setting him free. That is what the Sabbath is all about: God doing good works for our life and salvation! Then Jesus further illustrates His point by asking another question, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath?” But still, they could not answer. It often takes much preaching and prayer to break through the hardened heart of a self-righteous sinner.