

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Reformation Sunday

October 26 through November 1, 2025

Catechesis Notes for Week— The Second Article—God’s Unfathomable Goodness and Love— *Reformation week celebrates the freedom of conscience that comes to us when our Lord justifies us, declaring us righteous for Jesus’ sake. Meditation upon the Second Article and the justification of the sinner before God by grace through faith is a fitting exercise for this week. On the Second Article, Luther writes, “When we had been created by God the Father and had received from Him all kinds of good, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil. So we fell under God’s wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, just as we had merited and deserved. There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God—in His immeasurable goodness—had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness. He came from heaven to help us. So those tyrants and jailers are all expelled now. In their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation. He has delivered us poor, lost people from hell’s jaws, has won us, has made us free, and has brought us again into the Father’s favor and grace. He has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection so that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.” (Large Catechism)*

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 Preserves His Church as the Kingdom of God Suffers Violence.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 3:16

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

Psalm 46 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 46: *Almighty God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need, because You have so loved us that You gave Your only begotten Son to suffer and die for our salvation. Grant us a firm faith in You that we might rest in the sure and certain promises of the Gospel which cannot fail us, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135
Evening	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Reformation: Suffering Violence—Matthew 11:12-19	
Monday	The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9	John 3:31-36
Tuesday	St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles: John 15:12-21	1 Peter 1:3-9
Wednesday	The Call of Abram—Genesis 12:1-20	Acts 7:2-8
Thursday	Abram and Lot—Genesis 13:1-18	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Friday	Abram Rescues Lot; Pays a Tithe to Melchizedek—Gen. 14:8-23	Hebrews 6:19—7:17
Saturday	All Saints’ Day: Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3

Catechism: The Creed—Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?	Preschool +
And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...	
<i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,	First Grade +
That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for Reformation

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

Almighty God, You chose Your servants Simon and Jude to be numbered among the glorious company of the apostles. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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..."

Births: Rosie Grace, infant daughter of Josh and Bethany Franklin

Baptismal anniversaries: Lydia Schneider (10/30); Tim Gierach, (10/31); Rev. Robert Johnson, (11/1)

Wedding anniversaries: Lindsey and Jeffrey Kenyon, Joshua and Bethany Franklin (10/26); Larry and Sharon Martin, Matthew and Sarah Damato (10/28).

The sick: Carol Bender and Richard Leach (Peggy Lundberg's father) in rehab; Kevin Kehres, awaiting hip replacement surgery; Bob Corso, recovering at home from an aortic valve replacement; Melissa Brendel recovering from surgery; Dorothee Behling recovering from accident; Chrissy Artru (friend of the Duesslers), undergoing treatment for kidney transplant rejection.

In cancer treatment: Loretta Lampen, Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer

Those who mourn: The family and friends of Clara Garbisch (Pastor Bender's 103-year-old stepmother)

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

Hymn of the Week

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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Looking forward to All Saints' Day

November 2, 2025

Hymns: 677, TLH 656, 678, 822, 672, 336, 671

Revelation 7:9-17: John sees a vision of heaven. On the last day, believers of every tribe and nation will be gathered before the throne of the Lamb. They will have had their sin washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. They will be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and they will forever sing the praises of Him who is their salvation and who has wiped away all tears from their eyes.

1 John 3:1-3: The Apostle John points us forward to the hope of the resurrection when we will be like Christ Jesus in His glory. We now walk by faith in the promises of salvation and the resurrection of the body. We live in the sure and certain hope and confidence that we shall rise from the dead to an immortal life that is the very life of Christ Himself. "It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Matthew 5:1-12: The One greater than Moses calls His disciples out of the multitudes and opens His mouth to give them the Word of God by which they are made alive. Jesus preaches about the reality of Baptism in which we are joined to Christ so that what is true of Him is now true of us. Truly, the eight Beatitudes describe Christ, but the plural is used because God the Father now declares this about all who are baptized into the name of the Blessed Trinity. Eight represents those of the new creation who possess the kingdom of heaven just as the eight were spared from the Flood in the ark. Each Beatitude looks back to events from the history of Israel but also anticipates other parts of Matthew's Gospel. The life of the baptized is to be that of sorrow and joy, persecution and reward, death and resurrection. So closely are we joined to Christ in Baptism that these things of His experience become ours also. This is to be immediately understood of the work of the apostles themselves as they preach the content of the Beatitudes, that is, Christ. If they preach the Beatitudes as Law, the world will readily accept their preaching for the world sees these as admirable guides for behavior. It is only when they dare to proclaim the Gospel of the meek and merciful Peacemaker that they will be rejected and persecuted. But it is in this meek and merciful Peacemaker, our Lord Jesus Christ, that we have the joy and freedom of the Gospel. The promises of the Beatitudes become a source of comfort for us as Christians who believe in Jesus and who bear in our own bodies and lives the very life of Christ our Savior.