

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of the Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
November 9 through November 16, 2025*

Catechesis Notes for Week—The Third Article of the Creed — How Do We Receive the Holy Spirit — When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter evening, He said to them, “Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you ... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20: 21-23, NKJV). These words teach us much about “how” we receive the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit through our Savior’s Word of forgiveness. There is an inseparable linkage between our Savior’s words and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is “the Lord and giver of life.” He calls us to faith in Christ. He creates a new will in our hearts that desires to love God and serve the neighbor. He produces in us the good works of love that flow from faith. He brings forth in us the “fruit of the Spirit”— love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He brings to us everything that Jesus has done for us. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus Himself actually dwells in our hearts by faith. The Holy Spirit does all this by the Word of our Savior. Christians need to know where the Holy Spirit promises to be found: in the reception of the Word of Christ. Therefore, we seek the Spirit in the very promises of our Baptism, in the ongoing preaching of the Gospel, in faithful catechesis of the Word of Christ, in the life of repentance and faith that confesses sin and receives the absolution. Even the Lord’s Supper carries the promise of the Holy Spirit because Jesus’ word, “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” is at the center of the Sacrament. When we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are praying for the Holy Spirit to come to us and work in us where He promises to be found: in Christ’s Word—in all the wonderful ways Jesus’ word of forgiveness comes to us.

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: By the Word of the Lord the Heavens Were Made

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Ephesians 2:1

You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Psalm 8 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 8: O Lord, Your name is excellent in all the earth for You have loved us poor and undeserving sinners with an everlasting love that moved You to give Your Son into death for our salvation. You have made us a little lower than the angels, but in Christ You have exalted us to Your right hand and given us dominion over all the works of Your hands, having put all things under our feet. For all Your exceedingly great and precious blessings we give You thanks and praise 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	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27
Evening	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 21: An Official’s Son is Healed—John 4:46-54	
Monday	The Three Visitors—Genesis 18:1-15	Hebrews 11:8-16
Tuesday	Abraham Prays for Sodom—Genesis 18:16-33	1 Cor. 5:9-11; 6:9-11
Wednesday	Sodom and Gomorrah Are Destroyed—Genesis 19:1 (2-11) 12-29	Matthew 11:20-30
Thursday	Abraham and Abimelech—Genesis 20:1-18	James 5:13-20
Friday	Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out—Genesis 21:1-21	Galatians 4:21-31
Saturday	Trinity 22: Micah 6:6-8	Philippians 1:3-11

Catechism: The Creed—Third Article

<i>What is the Third Article of the Creed? I believe in the Holy Spirit...</i>	Preschool +
<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.	First Grade +

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.

Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Twenty-first Week after Trinity

O Lord, keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in 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; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*

Monday: *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*

Tuesday: *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*

Thursday: *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.*

Friday: *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*

Saturday: *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.*

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

Baptismal anniversaries: *Autumn Christopherson (11/9); Zoe LaFore (11/10); Derek Larson (11/11); Isaac Alvarez, Hailee DiPuma, Reese DiPuma (11/13); Bryce Ferguson, Angela Greschner (11/14).*

Wedding anniversaries: *Matthew and Verla Gatchell (11/13).*

The sick: *Richard Leach (Peggy Lundberg’s father) hospitalized; Mark Anderson (brother of Lynn Leider), recovering from extensive injuries due to a fall; Geri Zaretzke, suffering with congestive heart failure; Carol Bender in rehab; Kevin Kehres, awaiting hip replacement surgery; Bob Corso, recovering at home from an aortic valve replacement; Melissa Brendel, recovering from surgery; Chrissy Artru (friend of the Duesslers), undergoing treatment for kidney transplant rejection.*

In cancer treatment: *Barb Wieting (wife of Rev. Ken Wieting), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore), diagnosed with a cancerous lesion and awaiting further results; Loretta Lampen, Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Laurie Roe, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.*

In Hospice Care: *Reed Brown (brother-in-law to Frank and Rosie Kopling).*

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

Hymn of the Week

“The God of Abraham Praise” (stanzas 1-3)

798

Looking forward to the Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

November 16, 2025

Hymns: 798, 613, 608, 610, 689, 815

Micah 6:6-8: “To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” is what the Lord says is good. It is a description of faith in Christ. To know Christ is to love mercy. To walk humbly with your God is to trust in Jesus by confessing one’s sin and clinging to His forgiveness. To love mercy is to believe in it as the most important gift we have from God through Christ.

Philippians 1:3-11: Paul speaks to the Philippians in thanksgiving to God for their “fellowship in the Gospel” with him. To have “fellowship in the Gospel” is to share the common faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins by grace alone and not by the works of the Law. This “fellowship in the Gospel” is characterized by the life of mercy and unconditional love toward brothers and sisters within the household of faith that covers their sin with forgiveness that is freely and unbegrudgingly given.

Matthew 18:21-35: The parable of the Unmerciful Servant teaches us that in the death of His Son, God has forgiven us a debt that we could not pay. This parable teaches the baptized that forgiveness for those who trespass against us flows from faith in Christ’s undeserved forgiveness, and that the refusal to forgive those who trespass against us is a denial of faith in Christ and a rejection of His forgiveness. He forgives us freely by the merits of Jesus alone, that we might live in that free gift of forgiveness especially toward those who have sinned against us. Christians should be taught to expect such upheaval from within and without. As it was in the days of John the Baptist when multitudes were being brought to faith, so it will be in our own day.