

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 11, 2026, through October 18, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The First Article and the Fall into Sin** — The Scriptural account 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 as you are able. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## **Theme: Lord, Grant that We Receive Your Call to Repentance and Faith**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

#### **Verse: 1 Timothy 1:5**

**This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.**

#### **Psalms 23 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on Psalm 23:** O good and faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ, of Your infinite love You laid down Your life for us Your sheep. We give You praise and glory for Your unspeakable grace and mercy. We beseech You, feed us upon the pleasant pastures of Your Word, give us to drink of the waters of salvation, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that, as You know us and continually minister to our need, even so may we know You, gladly hear Your voice, and follow You through the valley of the shadow of death. Deliver us from all our foes until Your whole flock shall be gathered about You in the resurrection on the last day, 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      | 140, 141 | 144    | 147     | 148       | 1, 2     | 5      | 8, 9     | 10     |
| Evening      | 142, 143 | 145    | 146     | 149, 150  | 3        | 4, 6   | 7        | 11, 12 |

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

|           | Bible Narrative                                                     | Second Reading    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday    | <b>Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14</b>                 |                   |
| Monday    | Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)                      | Hebrews 13:1-6    |
| Tuesday   | The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9                             | Hebrews 13:7-25   |
| Wednesday | Balaam's Donkey (Part 1)—Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38            | Galatians 1:1-10  |
| Thursday  | Balaam's Donkey (Part 2)—(survey ch. 23 and 24) 24:10-13 (14-19) 25 | Galatians 1:11-24 |
| Friday    | The Sin of Peor—Numbers 25:1-18                                     | Galatians 2:1-10  |
| Saturday  | Cyrus Becomes God's Instrument—Isaiah 45:1-7                        | 1 Thess. 1:1-10   |

### **The 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.<br>He defends me against all danger<br>and guards and protects me from all evil.<br>All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,<br>without any merit or worthiness in me.<br>For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.<br>This is most certainly true. | Second Grade + |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|

### **Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace**

#### **Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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:** Kali Welch (10/12).

**Birth:** Lenora Henke, infant daughter of Collin and Glynis Henke; for Mary and Christian McMiller and their unborn baby Luka that the Lord would grant a safe delivery on Wednesday.

**Marriage:** Zachary Duessler and Elayna Caron, being joined in Holy Matrimony today.

**The sick:** Kayla Moellenhoff (Kathy May's niece) hospitalized with complications following childbirth; Pat Pom, recovering after a hospitalization; Doug Pom recovering after a fall; Tommy Lueck (Steve Lueck's cousin) in dire health in the ICU; David Steinhilb recovering from injuries sustained in a fall; Rueben Roe recovering from knee-replacement surgery; John Lehman continuing his long recovery from back surgery.

**In cancer treatment:** Kevin Riemer diagnosed with cancer and recovering from surgery; Terry O'Neill, and Ron Schaefer recovering from cancer surgery; Art Klausmeier (Mark Goltermann's cousin), Barbara Galis (Nick Galis' grandmother), Bob Rothe, Michael Piper (Bob Piper's brother), Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O'Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

**In hospice care:** Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy's niece).

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

#### **Hymn of the Week**

#### **“In God, My Faithful God”**

745

#### **Looking forward to the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24A)**

October 18, 2026

**Hymns:** 525, 734, 819, 432, 631, 816

**Isaiah 45:1-7:** The reference to Cyrus, the King of Persia who was anointed by the Lord “to subdue nations before him,” illustrates the great truth that the civil authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Cyrus was no believer in the God of Israel, yet God raised him up to use him for his own purposes. We are to honor the civil authorities, not because they are men and women of faith, but because God declares that He will work through them for His good purposes. Christians are called to walk by faith in the Lord and not be tied to this world as if our life here is the source of ultimate meaning and fulfillment.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10:** Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Thessalonian Christians that manifested itself in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout Macedonia and Achaia. The Word that called them to faith is powerful in the life of the Church for calling others to faith: “Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance.”

**Matthew 22:15-22:** What was the wickedness of the Pharisees that Jesus perceived? They were not interested in truth. They hated Jesus because He was no respecter of persons but called all to repentance without partiality. If they believed Him, then everything they believed about themselves—that they were good, pious, righteous, holy, and self-sufficient—was wrong. Their wickedness was that they rejected Jesus as their God and Savior in favor of themselves. The Pharisees and Jews had no devotion for Roman rule, so the Pharisees attempt to entrap Jesus in a scandal that they can use to destroy Him. If He rejects Roman rule, then they can accuse Him of treason and demand His death. If He supports Roman rule, then they can accuse Him of being disloyal to Israel and denying the people's hope that He would redeem them. Jesus' answer is shrewd: “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.” By this answer He neither dishonors the civil authorities nor the authority of God. In Jesus' answer He establishes what has been called the doctrine of the two kingdoms: the spiritual and the secular kingdom. In the spiritual kingdom God is concerned about the faith of the heart and salvation. In the secular kingdom God is concerned about the outer man, protecting life and property, and maintaining justice. The Christian is called to distinguish carefully between the two kingdoms as we pass through this world to our eternal home.