The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026 through November 15, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week*— *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: Watch! You Do Not Know the Hour of the Lord's Return!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:3

No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed,
and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 70 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 70: *Almighty and everlasting God, I am poor and needy. Many despise my confession of faith in the Lord Jesus and seek to destroy my life and everything I believe in and hold dear. Deliver me from those who rise up against me and teach me to rejoice in the salvation of Your Son who suffered every form of evil in order to redeem us with His blood; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85
Evening	69	72	74	77	79	81	83	86

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	**Second Reading**
Sunday	**Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13**	
Monday	Joshua's Conquests—Joshua 11:15-20; 13:1-7; 18:1-2, 10; 21:43-45	Ephesians 1:12-23
Tuesday	Joshua's Farewell Address—Joshua 23:1-4; 24:2-14	Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday	The Death of Joshua—Joshua 24:13-31	Ephesians 2:11-18
Thursday	The Conquest of Canaan Continues—Judges 1:1-9, 27-33; 2:1-6	Eph. 2:19—3:7
Friday	Israel's Unfaithfulness and the Judges—Judges 2:7-23	Ephesians 3:8-13
Saturday	The Day of the Lord Is Near—Zephaniah 1:7-16	1 Thess. 5:1-11

The Catechism: The Creed—Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Preschool +

What does this mean? 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: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son 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 the same Jesus Christ, 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…" (LSB p. 294)

In Our Prayers this Week — "Let us pray for…"

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

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

Military service members: *Morgan Thoni (Navy); Katelyn Wittenburg (granddaughter of George and Sue Kaminski) and Evon Ingraham (Army National Guard); David Uttenreither and Christian McMiller (Army); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Cassie Villalpando (Air National Guard).*

The sick: *Sandy Lueck, hospitalized; Kathy Federman recovering from injuries after a fall; Rev. William Ruhbusch (Mark Ruhbusch's uncle) in failing health; Bev Pionke recovering from an infection; Glen Burk, recovering after surgery; Bob Zaretzke, recovering after hospitalization; John Lehman continuing his long recovery from back surgery.*

In cancer treatment: *Kevin Riemer, Terry O'Neill, Ron Schaefer, Barbara Galis, Bob Rothe, Michael Piper, Michael Gehl, Mary O'Flyng,, Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.*

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

Hymn of the Week "'As Surely as I Live,' God Said" (Stanzas 5-8) 614

Looking forward to The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2026

Hymns: 509, 508, 647, 536, 351, 664

Zephaniah 1:7-16: *The prophet Zephaniah predicts the coming of the great Day of the Lord in which God's wrath will be poured out upon those who have rejected the Gospel of Christ. This is the day of the Lord's Second Coming. The prophet's warning is intended to bring about repentance so that those who are living in lawless, idolatrous unbelief might be turned to true faith in the Savior for their deliverance. We are taught to believe that the Lord is near so that we will always be prepared for His coming.*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11: *Like the prophet Zephaniah, Paul, too, instructs us to be prepared for the coming of the Day of the Lord. We are called to forsake the drunken unbelieving ways of this sin-darkened world and live in the sobriety of true faith, repentance, and godliness. "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." This is the message by which we are to comfort and strengthen one another until Christ returns again in glory to judge the living and the dead.*

Matthew 25:14-30: *The Lord Jesus has committed much to His Church. He has given us the Gospel and Sacraments. By these gifts, faith in Christ is created and spreads throughout the world. These gifts of Word and Sacrament, the Gospel and faith in Christ are the "goods" or "talents" Jesus has committed to His Church. In the language of the parable, Jesus "is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them." What is to be done with these gifts? The Gospel is to be preached; the Sacraments are to be administered; faith in Christ is to be confessed! Why? Because through these gifts, the kingdom of God continues to increase. The miracle of the kingdom is that the more the Gospel and sacraments are preached and administered, the more "the talents" multiply. Faith and the preaching of the Gospel (along with the Sacraments) go together. Where preaching abounds, there faith abounds; and where faith abounds, there will, correspondingly, be greater use of the gifts of Word and Sacrament. So what do we do with these gifts until the Lord returns? Pastors preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments; Christians eagerly receive, believe, and confess; and the Word and faith of the Lord spreads. The "unprofitable servant" is that minister or disciple of Jesus who turns away from these gifts the Lord has so freely given for our salvation and the salvation of our neighbor.*