The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026 through November 22, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lord's Prayer: Promises from God and an Invitation to Believe*—Luther described the text of the Lord's Prayer as "preaching the holy life." Holiness comes from the Word of God that is received and believed. We were created by God's Word and we are called to salvation and faith in Christ through God's Word. To be the forgiven sinner and to live where God has placed you, by faith in Christ and according to His Word, is the "holy life"—a life "sanctified" by the Word of God and prayer. God speaks and faith claims the promises of God's Word in prayer. When we take up the Lord's Prayer in our daily prayers we should learn to believe that every petition of the Lord's Prayer, from the Introduction to the Seventh Petition, is first a promise of God's Word to us even before it becomes our prayer to God. This is important because prayer and the holy life rest upon the sure and certain promises of God. God's Word gives faith its certainty and boldness. In the Introduction we are invited to trust in God as our dear and gracious Father because that is who He is and that is what He has promised to be for us. In the First Petition He promises us that His name is kept holy whenever His Word is faithfully taught and when we live our lives according to it. The promises of the Lord's Prayer give certainty to our prayers and sanctify the lives of all who believe them.*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: The Gospel Is Our Greatest Treasure!

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15
From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 90:1-12 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.
Prayer on Psalm 90: *Lord God, heavenly Father, in the frailty of our short earthly life, teach us to call upon You in humble faith, to confess our sins, and to ever abide in the safety of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101
Evening	86	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	**Second Reading**
Sunday	**Parable of the Talents—Matthew 25:14-30**	
Monday	Othniel, Israel's First Judge—Judges 3:7-11	Ephesians 3:14-21
Tuesday	Ehud, Israel's Left-Handed Judge—Judges 3:12-30 (31)	Ephesians 4:1-6
Wednesday	Deborah the Prophetess Judges Israel—Judges 4:1-24	Ephesians 4:7-16
Thursday	The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon—Judges 6:1 (2-5) 6, 11-27	Ephesians 4:17-24
Friday	The Sign of the Fleece—Judges 6:28-40	Ephesians 4:25-32
Saturday	The Lord God Will Seek Out His Sheep—Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	1 Cor. 15:20-28

The Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

What is the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer? **Our Father who art in heaven.**	Preschool +
What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.	First Grade +
What is the First Petition? **Hallowed be Thy name.**	Preschool +
What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.	Second Grade +

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!	Third Grade +

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

Collect for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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…"

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: *Laurie Roe, Mark Goltermann (11/18); Glen Burk, Hazel Gierach (11/21).*
Wedding anniversaries: *Timothy and Cheryl Fischer (11/18).*
The sick: *Polly Joubert, hospitalized; Kathy Federman recovering from injuries after a fall; Bev Pionke recovering from an infection; Glen Burk, recovering after surgery; Sandy Lueck, 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.*
In hospice care: *Rev. William Ruhbusch (Mark Ruhbusch's uncle).*

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

Hymn of the Week ***"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" (Stanzas 1-3)*** ***514***

Looking forward to The Last Sunday of the Church Year ***November 22, 2026***

Hymns: 741, 532, 511, 710, 851, 601

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24: *In this prophecy, the Lord proclaims Himself the great Shepherd of His sheep. The Old Testament reading corresponds to the Gospel for the day when the Great Shepherd of the Sheep will gather His flock to Himself.*

1 Corinthians 15:20-28: *In St. Paul's great chapter on the resurrection, he proclaims that Jesus is the great "second Adam" who is the first to rise from the dead because of His sacrifice that took away all sin and thereby vanquished death. Christ leads the resurrection procession. He is the first to rise. We follow in His train. He puts all enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Then He hands the kingdom over to the Father.*

Matthew 25:31-46: *Jesus gives us a picture of the last judgment. When He returns in glory with all His holy angels, He will sit upon the throne of His glory, all nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate believers in Christ (the sheep) from unbelievers (the goats). Believers in Christ will hear the result of Christ's forgiveness that they have believed: "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Unbelievers who have rejected Christ and despised His forgiveness will hear: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and all His angels." In the picture Jesus paints, both the sheep and the goats are shocked that Jesus draws attention to what they have or have not done. Since Christians do not trust in their works for salvation, they are shocked when Jesus refers to them in the judgment. Since unbelievers DO trust in their works, they are shocked to hear that they have done nothing deserving of salvation. Works do not save us, but they do testify to the faith of our heart. The works that are truly "good works" are those done entirely out of faith in God's mercy in Christ. These works are not produced by our own goodness or moral strength; rather, they are the fruits of God's good work of love and forgiveness that we have received. Since they are the fruits of faith—a faith that is entirely fixed upon Jesus—the believer may not even be aware of these works because his faith is fixed upon Christ for salvation. This explains their reply to Jesus in the judgment: "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?" From this we learn that our faith must be always fixed upon Jesus who first fed us, clothed us, and came to our aid in His work of salvation, only then will the works of faith be manifest in us.*