The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 22, 2026 through November 29, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Preserved in the Faith Until the Coming of Our Lord*—There are so many attacks upon our faith in Christ that it can be frightening to the Christian. Our flesh has the natural inclination that fights against the Spirit of God. The world has teachings and philosophies that appeal to the appetites of our flesh, and the devil is in league with both to tempt us to deny Christ and look elsewhere for a sense of peace and well-being. How will we be preserved in the faith in these latter days when there are so many threats to us and our children? We are preserved by continuing in the ordinary gifts of our Lord by which our faith has been created in the first place. The early Christians lived in a world in which Christianity was illegal; they were discriminated against and persecuted. It was culturally acceptable to deny Christ and live according to the covetous desires of the flesh. Becoming a Christian put one at a decided disadvantage in the society. Into this backdrop the Apostle Paul speaks to his catechumen and young pastor colleague these simple words: "Continue in the things that you have learned and become convinced of…. From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Our faith and salvation is given and sustained by the ordinary preaching and teaching of the Holy Scriptures. There is no substitute for the power of the Holy Scriptures to create, sustain, and protect us in our faith against every attack.*

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: Come, Inherit the Kingdom Prepared for You!

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 95:1-7a and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 95: *O Lord Jesus, we sing for joy to You for You are the Rock of our salvation and we are the sheep of Your pasture. You care for us constantly and in the green pastures of Your Word and Sacraments we lack nothing. Keep and preserve us in Your holy flock and guard us against impenitence and turning a deaf ear to Your Word, 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	101	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118
Evening	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	**Second Reading**
Sunday	**Separating the Sheep from the Goats—Matthew 25:31-46**	
Monday	The Lord Gives Victory to Gideon with 300 Men—Judges 7:1-23	Ephesians 5:1-14
Tuesday	The Birth of Samson—Judges 13:1-25	Ephesians 5:15-21
Wednesday	Samson's Philistine Wife and His Riddle—Judges 14:1-20	Ephesians 5:22-33
Thursday	The Foxes, Torches, and the Jawbone of a Donkey—Judges 15:1-20	Ephesians 6:1-9
Friday	Samson and Delilah—Judges 16:1-31	Ephesians 6:10-24
Saturday	Rend the Heavens and Come Down—Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Cor. 1:3-9

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 Last Sunday of the Church Year

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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: *Nathan Schneider (11/22); Louise Johnson (11/24); Angela Christopherson, Tom Aufdemberge (11/25).*
Wedding anniversaries: *Bob and Pat Rothe celebrating their 50th anniversary (11/27); Tom and Nicole Aidich (11/28).*
The sick: *Polly Joubert undergoing open heart surgery on Thanksgiving Eve; Jerry Freckmann hospitalized in Fort Atkinson with an infection; Bob Corso and Sandy Lueck recovering from hospitalization; Kathy Federman recovering from injuries after a fall; Glen Burk, recovering after surgery; 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 ***"Praise to the Lord, the almighty"*** ***790***

Looking forward to The First Sunday in Advent ***November 29, 2026***

Hymns: 334, 332, 355, 350, 331, 349

Isaiah 64:1-9: *"Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down!" is the prayer of the prophet Isaiah. He recognized the great truth that unless the Lord would rend the heavens and come down for the salvation of His people there would be no help for them. This is not only true of the Old Testament people of God, it is true of all sinners. In the words of Luther, "there was no hope for us until the only-begotten Son in His unfathomable goodness had come down from heaven to help us." The unique message of the Gospel is that it is God who has come down to our poor miserable world to redeem us with His own blood because He loves us and because it was impossible for us to save ourselves apart from His condescension to our world.*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9: *Paul confesses the faithfulness of the Lord who will sustain us until His Second Coming. Christ Jesus has given us every spiritual gift in His Gospel and Sacraments so that we might be sustained in His forgiveness to the end.*

Mark 11:1-10: *"Even so Lord Jesus, quickly come and free us from our sin!" Advent is the season in which we especially pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Christians long to be set free from the burden of sin, the weaknesses of the flesh, and the assaults of Satan and the world upon our faith. This is what the pilgrims on Palm Sunday yearned for. Through Jesus' preaching and ministry they recognized Him as the Messiah and cried out to Him: "Hosanna! (Save us now!) 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Blessed is the kingdom of our father David…Hosanna in the highest!" Quoting from the Passover Psalm 118, the believers on Palm Sunday recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the Passover. They recognized Him as the Messiah, the Son of David, and the One who would deliver them from the bondage to sin and death. They believed all this about Him and cried out to Him in fervent faith because they had heard and received His ministry of love and forgiveness. Advent does not ignore the harsh realities of life in this world; instead it recognizes all of them and claims the promise of Christ that He is our redeemer. During advent we learn to fix our eyes upon the hope of the Second Coming of Christ at which time He will set us free once and for all from the bondage to sin and death. Then "our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love."*