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# THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

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*The Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 28-September 3, 2016*

## 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. If able, the head of the home should take the role of "Leader" (L) and the family the role of "Group" (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week—Praying through the Catechism**—As we begin another year of meditation upon the Catechism, you will notice some changes have been made to the format of this series. We waited to make these changes until a new year started in order to keep consistency throughout a year.

First, you will notice that the **week now runs Monday through Sunday**. This makes it easier to focus on the upcoming Sunday's readings, theme, and prayers throughout the week. In this transition period, a few daily psalms will be missed. This is okay. We will come back to them a few times in the course of this year.

A second change you will notice is that **prayers will be included on the assigned Catechism sections each week** in the Congregation at Prayer. These prayers will assist you in your family prayer and individual devotions at home. Once again we encourage you to memorize the parts of the catechism on a weekly basis, and encourage your household to do the same. We learn best how to pray and meditate upon the Catechism by actually praying according to what the Catechism teaches us. In addition to these prayers and use of the Congregation at Prayer, we encourage individuals and families to obtain copies of the Christian Worship hymnal for use in the home. Reading Scripture together, reciting the Catechism, learning by heart verses of Scripture, singing and praying with the hymnal is among the foremost ways in which we are preserved in the Christian faith and pass on our faith to our children.

The third change you will notice in the coming weeks is a **read through of the Lutheran Confessions**. This will begin in a couple weeks as we finish our "Through the Bible in Two Years" series. If you are in need of a copy of the Lutheran Confessions, please speak with Pastor Seelow, and he will point you in the right direction to find one that suits your needs.

Use this devotional in any way you see fit. Take parts, only use the Scripture guide, use it for a guide to daily prayer. But please continue in your catechetical training. Learn and pray the catechism. May God richly bless our time in his Word this year!

**Theme:** *The life of faith is one of true humility.*

### INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.<sup>1</sup>

**L** In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

### APOSTLES' CREED

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"



**G** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

**DAILY PSALM**

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Morning</b>	60,61	65	66	68	71	73	75,76
<b>Evening</b>	62	63,64	67,70	69	72	74	77

**PSALM PRAYER**

**L** O Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You alone are the only true and living God. You have created and sustain all things, and in You alone is life and salvation. Teach us at all times to love You with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength, that receiving You we might ever know and abide in the consolation of Your love all the days of our lives, for You live and reign one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

**THE CATECHISM: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

*First & Second Commandments*

<p><b>L</b> What is the First Commandment?</p> <p><b>C</b> You shall have no other gods.</p>	Preschool +
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.</p>	First Grade +
<p><b>Prayers on the First Commandment:</b></p> <p>O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are the only true and living God. Forgive us our sins against the First Commandment. Strengthen us by Your grace to fear, love, and trust in You above all things; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.</p> <p>Lord God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—You teach us to trust in You above all things because You are the only true and living God. You love us and provide us with everything that we need for our life and salvation. Forgive us for making gods out of ourselves. Forgive us for trusting in our works, money, pleasures, or anything in this world more than we trust in You. By Your forgiveness teach me to fear, love, and trust in You above all things, for You live and reign, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p>	
<p><b>L</b> What is the Second Commandment?</p> <p><b>C</b> You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.</p>	Preschool +
<p><b>L</b> What does this mean?</p> <p><b>C</b> We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God’s name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><b>Prayers on the Second Commandment:</b></p> <p>Blessed Lord, we are not to misuse Your holy name by cursing, swearing, using satanic arts, lying, or deceiving others. Forgive us our sins against the Second Commandment. Teach us by Your Word and Spirit to call upon You in every trouble, to pray, praise, and give thanks to You at all times; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</p> <p>Heavenly Father, You teach us to call upon Your holy name in prayer every day. You promise to forgive our sins for Jesus’ sake. You promise to work for our good through the suffering, sickness, persecution, and tragedies that we face. For Jesus’ sake, forgive us for failing to pray. Forgive us for cursing, for swearing falsely, for seeking help from Satan, and for lying or deceiving by Your name. By Your forgiveness, teach us to believe in Your promises and in every joy and sorrow of life to pray, praise, and give thanks to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</p>	

## DAILY READINGS

*In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.*

	Bible Stories for the Family	Through the Bible in Two Years
<b>Tuesday</b>	Impending Crucifixion and a Death Plot Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2	1 John 1
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mary's expression of devotion Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8	1 John 2:1-27
<b>Thursday</b>	First Lesson for the 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Proverbs 9:8-12	1 John 2:28-3:24
<b>Friday</b>	Second Lesson for the 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Philemon 1:1,10-21	1 John 4
<b>Saturday</b>	Gospel for the 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Luke 14:25-33	1 John 5
<b>Sunday</b>	Judas' bargain with the Jewish leaders Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6	2 John
<b>Monday</b>	Preparation for Passover Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13	3 John

## PRAYERS

### *Prayer for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:*

**L** O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**G** Amen.

### *Daily Themes for Prayer*

- Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday: Pray 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: Pray 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: Pray 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: Pray 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.*
- Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday: Pray 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.*

## ***In Our Prayers this Week***

*Travis Haas, as he celebrates his birthday this week, that the Lord continue to shower blessings upon him in another year of his favor and grace.*

*Emily Haas, as she remembers her baptism this week, that she be comforted by her holy bath, and that they rejoice in the knowledge that she is a child of God and heir of heaven through these precious waters.*

*Phil & Lois Brei, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week, that the Lord continue to watch*

*over them and bless them, and that the love of God for them continue to shine brightly in their love for each other.*

*Bryce Scherling, who has been hospitalized again, that the Lord continue to watch over and protect him and his health, that the Lord guide the hands and work of the surgeons, doctors, nurses and other caregivers, and that the Lord give both he and his wife, Tanya, a measure of his patience and perseverance as they encounter another trying time in their lives.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**G** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver ☩ us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER**

### *Morning*

**G** In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### *Evening*

**G** In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"

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## I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone



1 I trust, O Christ, in you a - lone; No earth -  
 2 My sin and guilt are pla - guing me; Oh, grant  
 3 Con - firm in us your gos - pel, Lord, Your prom -



ly hope a - vails me. You will not see me  
 me true con - tri - tion And by your death up -  
 ise of sal - va - tion. And make us keen to



o - ver-thrown When Sa - tan's host as - sails  
 on the tree Your par - don and re - mis -  
 hear your Word And fol - low our vo - ca -



me. No hu - man strength, no earth - ly pow'r Can  
 sion. Be - fore the Fa - ther's throne a - bove Re -  
 tion: To spend our lives in love for you, To



see me through the e - vil hour, For you a -  
 call your match - less deed of love That he may  
 bear each oth - er's bur - dens, too. And then, at



lone my strength re - new. I cry to you!  
 lift my dread - ful load, O Son of God!  
 last, when death shall loom, O Sav - ior, come



I trust, O Lord, your prom - ise true.  
 I plead the grace your death be - stowed.  
 And bear your loved ones safe - ly home.

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Tune: ALLEIN ZU DIR (87 87 88 848) *Eyn schön Lied*, Wittenberg, 1541, alt.