
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 10-16, 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.

Theme: Jesus Cleanses Us From the Leprosy of Sin

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The First Article of the Creed and the Historical Account of Creation in Genesis — The Bible verse for this week teaches us that all of creation came into existence by the Word of God and that apart from God's Word nothing exists. The stories 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.

INVOCATION

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

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE

Psalms 33:6

G By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

¹ 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.'"



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
Morning	8,9	10	14,15	18	19,20	22	26,27
Evening	7	11,12	13	16,17	21	23,24	25

PSALM PRAYER

L Almighty God, my heavenly Father, by Your eternal Word You have created and sustain all things. Teach me to believe that You have made me and all creatures; that You have given me my body and soul, and all my members; that you provide me with food, clothing, and shelter; that You richly and daily provide me with all that I need; that you defend and protect me from all evil; and that You do all of this for me out of Your fatherly divine goodness and mercy, so that I may live joyfully and confidently in Your loving care and protection throughout every moment of my life and in every time of need; through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE CREED

The First Article

L What is the First Article?	<i>Preschool +</i>
C I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.	
L What does this mean?	<i>First Grade +</i>
C I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind, and all my abilities.	
C And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.	<i>Second Grade +</i>

Prayer on the First Article of the Apostles' Creed:

Heavenly Father, You are God Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We give thanks to You that you have made us and all creatures; that You have given us our bodies and souls, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and that You still take care of them. You also give us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all we have. You richly and daily provide us with all that we need to support us in our body and life. You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do for us out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe that this is most certainly true, and to ever thank and praise, serve and obey You as long as we live. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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
Monday	Jesus' Crucifixion (Matthew)	Matthew 27:33-56	Large Catechism [LC] I:30-40
Tuesday	Jesus' Crucifixion (Mark)	Mark 15:22-41	LC I:41-48
Wednesday	Jesus' Crucifixion (Luke)	Luke 23:33-49	LC I:49-64
Thursday	First Lesson for the 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 32:22-30	LC I:65-77
Friday	Second Lesson for the 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	1 John 5:13-15	LC I:78-87
Saturday	Gospel for the 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 18:1-8a	LC I:88-97
Sunday	Jesus' Crucifixion (John)	John 19:17b-37	LC I:98-102

WE HAVE BEGUN A DAILY READING OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A COPY OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, SPEAK TO PASTOR SEELOW.

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost:

L Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Jamie Darby & Katrina Meyer, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord continue to shower blessings upon them in another year of His favor and grace.

Briana Lange, as she celebrates the anniversary of her baptism this week, that continues to be reminded of the blessings that she has through water and the Word, and that she continue to live a life of baptismal grace each day.

Kathy Powers and her family, at the death of her father, that the Lord comfort them with the promises made in the

resurrection, and that the mournful tears eventually turn to joy in the gift of eternal life with Jesus.

Delores Adelung, as she recovers from surgery, that the Lord grant her healing and relief, and thankfulness for the success of the surgeons and nurses, and that he continue to strengthen her every day in body and soul.

Those affected by Hurricane Matthew, that the Lord grant them peace which only he can give as they return to homes and communities, and that through this storm he may work repentance and turn many people back to him.

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.²

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.²

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.

² 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.'"

TRUST

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In You, O Lord, I Put My Trust



1 In you, O Lord, I put my trust—
 2 Oh, lis - ten, Lord, most gra - cious - ly,
 3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock,
 4 With you, O Lord, I cast my lot;
 5 All hon - or, praise, and maj - es - ty



Leave me not help - less in the dust;
 And hear my cry, my prayer, my plea;
 My for - tress that with - stands each shock,
 O faith - ful God, for - sake me not,
 To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it be,



Let me not be con - found - ed.
 Make haste for my pro - tec - tion,
 My help, my life, my tow - er,
 To you my soul com - mend - ing.
 Our God for - ev - er glo - rious,



My faith, O Lord, Must in your Word
 For woes and fear Sur - round me here.
 My bat - tle sword, Al - might - y Lord—
 Lord, be my stay, And lead the way
 In whose rich grace We run our race



Be al - ways firm - ly ground - ed.
 Help me in my af - flic - tion.
 What can re - sist your pow - er?
 Now and when life is end - ing.
 Till we de - part vic - to - rious.

Text: Adam Reusner, 1496–c. 1575, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1–4, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 5, alt.

Tune: IN DICH HAB ICH GEHOFFET (887 447) *David's Himmlische Harpfen*, Nürnberg, 1581, alt.