
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 24-30, 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: God Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner!

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Second Article of the Creed—Redemption is the theme of the Second Article. It is a word that indicates that we have been "purchased and won" by Christ from Satan who had been our lord and taskmaster. Satan held sinful man and each one of us in his clutches. His power over us was the Law through sin. Because of our sinful rebellion he was able to lay claim to us and hold us under the Law's condemnation. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, the condemnation of hell, and the power of Satan, by becoming a curse for us under the Law and pouring out His life-blood into death for us. This is how He, as the Seed of the Woman, would "bruise" or "crush" the devil's headship and authority over man, according to the first promise of the Gospel in Genesis 3:15. "I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed [Satan] and her Seed; He [the woman's Seed, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary] shall bruise your head [Satan's power to condemn us] and you [Satan] shall bruise His heel. Christ was "bruised" upon the cross as He trampled Satan underfoot through His suffering and death. Now we have freedom from Satan's tyranny through faith in Christ.

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

John 1:14

G The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

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	45	48,49	51	54,56	59	60,61	65
Evening	46,47	50	52,53	55	57,58	62	63,64

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord, You give heed to the deepest groaning of our hearts. Teach us to call upon You every morning and to come into Your house to receive Your mercy and strength. You are faithful to Your promises. Lead us, O Lord, in Your righteousness that we might rejoice in You and be joyful in Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE CREED

The Second Article

L What is the Second Article?	
C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.	<i>Preschool +</i>
L What does this mean?	
C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.	<i>First Grade +</i>
C He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.	<i>Second Grade +</i>
Prayer on the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed: <i>Heavenly Father, You have given us Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, taking all of the punishment that we deserved for our sin upon Himself. He descended into hell, proclaiming His victory over the devil; and on the third day He rose again from the dead, preaching the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in His name to the whole world. We give thanks to You for all that Your Son has done for us. Help us to know and believe in Jesus. He has now ascended into heaven and sits at Your right hand as our Savior and Lord. All the enemies of sin, death, and hell have been placed under His feet and He now rules over all things for the sake of His Church. Give us fervent faith in Jesus and the blessed hope that He will come again to judge the living and the dead, giving the gift of eternal salvation to all who believe in Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</i>	

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	Mary Magdalene at the tomb	Matthew 28:1; John 20:1-2	Large Catechism [LC] I:183-198
Tuesday	The other women at the tomb	Matthew 25:5-8; Mark 16:2-8; Luke 24:1-8	LC I:199-216
Wednesday	Peter and John at the tomb	Luke 24:12; John 20:3-10	LC I:217-231
Thursday	First Lesson for the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation	Jeremiah 31:31-34	LC I:232-247
Friday	Second Lesson for the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation	Romans 3:19-28	LC I:248-264
Saturday	Gospel for the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation	John 8:31-36	-----
Sunday	Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9; John 20:11-17	-----

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-Second Sunday after Pentecost:

L Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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

Phyllis Butterfield and Amanda Arnold, as they celebrate their birthdays this week, that the Lord continue to shower blessings upon them in another year of His favor and grace.

Phyllis Butterfield, as she celebrates the anniversary of her baptism this week, that she 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.

Brent & Judy Meyer, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week, that they continue to show the love of Christ in their marriage and that the Lord bless them with another year of his mercy and favor.

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.'"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

306**Before You, God the Judge of All**

1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I
 2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in
 3 O Je - sus, let your pre-cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
 wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
 cleans-ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
 But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly
 But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.