
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation
October 31-November 6, 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: By Grace Through Faith in Christ Alone!

Catechesis Notes—The Second Article—He suffered, died, and was buried—"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). On our behalf and for our salvation He suffered and died. The word for "bruised" or "crushed" for our iniquities is the same verb found in Genesis 3:15, in which the Seed of the Woman would "bruise" the serpent's head and the serpent would "bruise" or "crush" the Savior's heel. Everything that "chastises" our conscience and interrupts our peace with God, as well as the "chastening" or punishment that we deserved for our sin to make peace with God, fell upon Jesus. Every wound that is inflicted upon us because of our sin is "healed" by "His stripes" or His "wounds" in the shedding of His blood. (Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis, Catechist Edition, p. 106a)

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

Ephesians 2:8,9

G For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

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	66	68	71	73	75,76	78	80
Evening	67,70	69	72	74	77	79	81

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.'"



PSALM PRAYER

- L** Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray You so to guide and govern us by Your Word and Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget You but remember that we are ever walking in Your sight; 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 Confessions in One Year
Monday	Jesus appearance to the other women and their report to the disciples	Matthew 28:9,10; Mark 16:10,11; Luke 24:9-11; John 20:18 Large Catechism [LC] I:265-78
Tuesday	The guards' report to the Sanhedrin	Matthew 28:11-15 LC I:279-96

Bible Stories for the Family

Through the Confessions in One Year

Wednesday	Jesus' appearance to Cleopas and his companion and their report to the disciples	Mark 16:12,13; Luke 24:13-35	LC I:297-310
Thursday	First Lesson for the Festival of All Saints'	Revelation 7:9-17	LC I:311-23
Friday	Second Lesson for the Festival of All Saints'	1 John 3:1-3	LC I:324-II:8
Saturday	Gospel for the Festival of All Saints'	Matthew 5:1-12	-----
Sunday	Jesus' appearance to the disciples—sans Thomas	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25	-----

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation:

L Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ 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

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

Travis Haas, as he celebrates the anniversary of his baptism this week, that he continues to be reminded of the blessings that he has through water and the Word, and that he live a life of baptismal grace each day.

Tom & Marlene Hansen, 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY FOR THE REFORMATION

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word | CW 203

REFORMATION

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and

by de- ceit or sword Would seek to o-ver-throw your
Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend your Chris-ten-dom that
u-ni-ty on earth. Sup-port us in our fi-nal

Son And to de- stroy what he has done.
we May sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
strife, And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

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.'"