
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 7-13, 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: *The Lord is Not the God of the Dead But of the Living!*

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Third Article of the Creed—"Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and completed; Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work had remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation. Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves... Further we believe that in this Christian church we have the forgiveness of sins, which is granted through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire Gospel. Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God's grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin."— The Large Catechism, Third Article

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 6:63

G It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

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	82,84	85	88	89	91	92	95,96
Evening	83	86	87	90	93	94	97

PSALM PRAYER

L O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts Your work begin, Your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, to joy and gladness wake us that we may be truly living, to You giving prayer unceasing and in love be still increasing. In the name of Jesus,

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE CREED

The Third Article

L What is the Third Article?	
C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.	<i>Preschool +</i>
L What does this mean?	
C I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.	<i>First Grade +</i>
C But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.	<i>Second Grade +</i>
Prayer on the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed: <i>O Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son to give life and salvation to the world, and who, together with the Father and the Son, we worship and glorify as the only true God, receive our thanks and praise for proclaiming Christ to us through the preaching of the Gospel and gifts of the holy sacraments. Faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, and love for God and our enemies are all Your creations and gifts to us through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Preserve the holy Christian Church among us through the faithful preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Bless the communion of saints that every baptized Christian, sharing in Christ's love through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, might abide in Christ and bear witness to His love in all that we do and say. Give us firm hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, so that we might faithfully endure persecution for Jesus' sake and suffer all, even death itself, rather than fall away from Him who gave His life for us. Hear us, O Holy Spirit, for You live and reign with the Father and the Son, 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 disciples—and Thomas	John 20:26-29 Large Catechism [LC] II:9-24
Tuesday	A miraculous catch of fish	John 21:1-23 LC II:25-37
Wednesday	The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49 LC II:38-54
Thursday	First Lesson for the Festival of All Saints'	Revelation 7:9-17 LC II:55-70
Friday	Second Lesson for the Festival of All Saints'	1 John 3:1-3 LC III:1-16
Saturday	Gospel for the Festival of All Saints'	Matthew 5:1-12 -----
Sunday	Jesus' Ascension & John's purpose and personal testimony	Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; John 20:30-31; 1:14b, 16-18; 21:24-25 -----

PRAYERS

Collect for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:

L Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence; 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

Katrina Meyer, 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 live a life of baptismal grace each day.

Jim & Wanda Cantrell, 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.'"

SAINTS AND MARTYRS

550

Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white,
 2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here;
 3 O - bless - ed saints, now take your rest;

Like thou - sand snow - clad moun - tains bright;
 But now, how glo - rious they ap - pear!
 A thou - sand times you will be blessed

With palms they stand. Who is this band
 Those mar - tyrs stand, A priest - ly band,
 For keep - ing faith Firm un - to death

Be - fore the throne of light?
 God's throne for - ev - er near.
 And scorn - ing world - ly trust.

These are the saints of glo - rious fame,
 So oft in trou - bled days gone by,
 For now you live at home with God;

Who from the great af - flic - tion came
 In an - guish they would weep and sigh;
 You toiled and sowed the Word a - broad.

And in the flood Of Je - sus' blood
 At home a - bove The God of love
 Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing

Are cleansed from guilt and blame.
 For - e'er their tears shall dry.
 Be - fore the throne of God.

Now gath - ered in the ho - ly place,
 They now en - joy the Sab - bath rest,
 The myr - iad an - gels raise the song;

Their voic - es they in wor - ship raise.
 The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest;
 O saints, sing with that hap - py throng!

Their an - thems swell Where God does dwell
 The Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board
 Lift up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice

Mid an - gels' songs of praise.
 Him - self is host and guest.
 In our Re - deem - er's song.

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Tune: GREAT WHITE HOST (PM) Norwegian folk tune, 17th century.