
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Week of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14-20, 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: We are blessed to be persecuted for Jesus' sake!

Catechesis Notes for the Week—How Do We Receive the Holy Spirit—When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter evening, He said to them, "Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you...Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20: 21-23, NKJV). These words teach us much about "how" we receive the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit through our Savior's Word of forgiveness. There is an inseparable linkage between our Savior's words and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is "the Lord and giver of life." He calls us to faith in Christ. He creates a new will in our hearts that desires to love God and serve the neighbor. He produces in us the good works of love that flow from faith. He brings forth in us the "fruit of the Spirit"— love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He brings to us everything that Jesus has done for us. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus Himself actually dwells in our hearts by faith. The Holy Spirit does all this by the Word of our Savior. Christians need to know where the Holy Spirit promises to be found: in the reception of the Word of Christ. Therefore, we seek the Spirit in the very promises of our Baptism, in the ongoing preaching of the Gospel, in faithful catechesis of the Word of Christ, in the life of repentance and faith that confesses sin and receives the absolution. Even the Lord's Supper carries the promise of the Holy Spirit because Jesus' word, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," is at the center of the Sacrament. When we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are praying for the Holy Spirit to come to us and work in us where He promises to be found: in Christ's Word—in all the wonderful ways Jesus' word of forgiveness comes to us.

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 2:1

G You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

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	98,100	101	103	105	107	109	112,113
Evening	99	102	104	106	108	110,111	114

PSALM PRAYER

- L** O Lord, You have won salvation for us and the whole world through Your Son and have made known Your salvation through the preaching of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We thank You for remembering Your mercy and faithfulness to Your people. Give us strength to sing the new song of salvation and to confess our faith in Christ in the joy of this salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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, we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. Call us to faith in Jesus by the Gospel, enlighten us every day with Your gifts of baptism, absolution, and the Lord's Supper; and sanctify and keep us and the whole Christian Church on earth with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Forgive us our sins every day and give us the blessed hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.

	Weekly Scripture Readings*		Through the Confessions in One Year
	Old Testament	New Testament	
Monday	Jeremiah 29:1-19	Matthew 26:36-56	Large Catechism [LC] III:17-34
Tuesday	Jeremiah 30:1-24	Matthew 26:57-75	LC II:35-52
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34	Matthew 27:1-10	LC II:53-67
Thursday	Jeremiah 33:1-22	Matthew 27:11-32	LC II:68-81
Friday	Jeremiah 37:1-21	Matthew 27:33-56	LC III:82-98
Saturday	Jeremiah 38:1-28	Matthew 27:57-66	-----
Sunday	Daniel 1:1-21	Matthew 28:1-20	-----

* *The New "Weekly Scripture Readings" follows the Daily Lectionary found in "Treasury of Daily Prayer." We are picking up this Lectionary mid-way near the end of the Church Year, so the start may seem abrupt. The Lectionary will "reset" on November 30, the First Sunday in Advent.*

PRAYERS

Collect for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:

L Lord God, govern our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Make us mindful of the end of all things and the day of your just judgment. Stir us up to lead holy lives, and let us live with you forever. We ask this 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.

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 PENTECOST 26

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near | CW 207

207 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When God's Son,
 2 A trum - pet loud shall re - sound And all the
 3 A book is o - pened then to all, A rec - ord
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but
 5 My Sav - ior paid the debt I owe And for my

the A - noint - ed, Shall with great maj - es - ty ap - pear
 earth be shak - en. Then all who in their graves are found
 tru - ly tell - ing What each has done, both great and small,
 car - nal plea - sures, Who here de - spised his pre - cious Word
 sin was smit - ten; With - in the Book of Life I know

As judge of all ap - point - ed. All mirth and
 Shall from their sleep a - wak - en And with the
 When he on earth was dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry
 And loved their earth - ly trea - sures! With shame and
 My name has now been writ - ten. I will not

laugh - ter then shall cease When flames on flames will
 liv - ing in that hour By the Al - might - y's
 heart be clear - ly seen, And all be known as
 trem - bling they will stand And at the judg - e's
 doubt, for I am free, And Sa - tan can - not

still in - crease, As Scrip - ture tru - ly teach - es.
 bound - less pow'r Be changed at his com - mand - ing.
 they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
 stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.
 threat - en me; There is no con - dem - na - tion!

6 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
 But hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way
 In fear and tribulation.
 Your saints are waiting patiently;
 Come soon, Redeemer; make us free
 From ev'ry evil. Amen.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; abr.; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
 Tune: ES IST GEWISSLICH (87 87 887) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

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.'"