
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9–15, 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: *True treasure is faith in the promises of God.*

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

Hebrews 11:1

G “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

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.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Morning	148	1,2	5,6	9,10	13,14	17	19,20
Evening	149,150	3,4	7,8	11,12	15,16	18	21

PSALM PRAYER

L O Lord God, heavenly Father, for the sake of Your Son You declare us righteous and forgive us all our sin. By Your absolution we enjoy every blessing of eternal salvation in Christ. Teach us to live in daily contrition and repentance, to turn from our sin in confession, and to believe that Christ is our righteousness and salvation that we might live joyfully and confidently in Your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

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.’”



THE CATECHISM

During the summer season, no catechetical study will take place. We will take up the 10 Commandments in a Sermon Series later this summer.

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
Tuesday	A lesson on faith	Matthew 21:20-22; Mark 11:20-25	Hebrews 5
Wednesday	A shrewd question and pertinent parables	Matthew 21:23-22:14; Mark 11:27-12:12; Luke 20:1-19	Hebrews 6
Thursday	First Lesson for the 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 15:1-6	Hebrews 7
Friday	Second Lesson for the 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Hebrews 8
Saturday	Gospel for the 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	Luke 12:32-40	Hebrews 9
Sunday	A question about paying taxes to Caesar	Matthew 22:15-20; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26	Hebrews 10:1-18
Monday	A skeptical question about the resurrection	Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40	Hebrews 10:19-39

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:

L Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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

Piper Hansen and Arleta Bauch, as they celebrate the anniversaries of their baptisms, that the Lord continue to reassure them of his promise made in Christ and that they continue to use the knowledge of their baptisms to live in peace and joy every day.

Roland Adelung, who continues to recover from a hospitalization, that the Lord grant him patience and endurance, and that the Lord grant a quick, speedy, and relatively painless recovery.

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.'"

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Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1, 2, 4-5, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3.
Tune: JESU, MEINE FREUDE (665 665 34 86) Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

Text: Johann Franck (1618-77) ❖ Tune: Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

The hymn, “Jesus, Priceless Treasure,” is likely one of the greatest Lutheran hymns. It is a coming together of two great Lutheran hymnists—the poet Johann Franck and the composer Johann Crüger. It is also a perfect wedding of text and tune, depicting the firm resolve of faith in the face of Satan, death, fear, and the world.

Franck was a prolific hymn-writer, writing 110 hymns. A lawyer by vocation, Franck served most of his career in Guben. Franck’s hymns largely deal with the idea of the union of the soul with its Savior.

Crüger was equally as prolific with his composition of hymn tunes. Crüger served as Kantor of St. Nicholas Church in Berlin. Known as one of the most distinguished musicians of his time, Crüger composed 71 hymn tunes, of which 18 are in wide use throughout the Church.

This hymn is a perfect example of the proper use of first-person discourse in religion, especially Church Music. Too often first-person music becomes about what I’m going to do for God. However, this hymn depicts the response of faith. None of our actions in this hymn serve God, but flow from faith. For example, at the start of stanza two we sing, “In thine arms I rest me; foes who would molest me cannot reach me here.” We do not put ourselves in Jesus’ arms, but by faith we know that we rest in Jesus’ arms and He keeps us safely.

The only “troubling” spot in this hymn comes in stanza four when we sing “Jesus is my Pleasure, Jesus is my Choice!” However, this depicts the difficulty of translating hymns from German into English while maintaining the poetry and rhyme scheme, but also getting the meaning. In German that line reads, *Jesu, meine Lust*, with *Lust* better translated as joy or delight. However, a word needed to be picked that rhymed with “voice” later in the stanza.

One of Bach’s greatest Motets, BWV 227, is based on this hymn. Bach expertly crafted this hymn into an eleven movement choral work. Most notably, the third movement, based on stanza two, is musically challenging, with the singers vocally depicting the shaking earth, flashing lightning, and defiance of Satan. Ultimately the work centers in the text from Romans 8:9-11, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.” This challenging fugue teaches the spirit of the hymn, that we are not in the flesh where evils can assail us, but the Holy Spirit dwells in us, removing us from the storms and sins of the flesh and bringing us to the peace which Christ alone gives.

This hymn is a timeless and faithful confession of Jesus’ protection and love for His redeemed sheep. Ultimately we confess that in death the trappings of the sinful world are left behind forever when we are taken to be with our “purest Pleasure, Jesus, priceless Treasure.”

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