

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Third to Last Week of the Church Year

November 10, 2024, through November 17, 2024

Life Thoughts-- Jesus' people considered bleeding women and deceased daughters (Matthew 9:18-20) not only disposable but defiling. Yet instead of avoiding or discarding them, the Savior draws near and takes hold (Matthew 9:22, 25). Rather than allowing death He wills length of days for them. Won't the same arm of the Lord and embrace of His body comfort (Isaiah 51:9, 12) in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis? *Prayer: Mighty Savior, open our eyes to behold the sanctity of every human life, and open our arms to share and safeguard it. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- Colossians 1:10 – “[W]alk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Living a godly life really is its own reward. Does the life St. Paul describes here sound more enjoyable than a life of worry, self-aggrandizement and self-centeredness? God wants us to walk closely to our Lord and imitate Jesus for a reason: so that we will be blessed and happy.

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 36:9

“With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”

Read or Chant Psalm 126

The Sacrament of Baptism—First Part

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Nov. 3	First Lesson, 3rd to Last Sunday of the Church Year—Matthew 9:18-26	Isaiah 51:9-16
Mon., Nov. 4	If it is by grace—Romans 10:19-11:24	Isaiah 13:1-22
Tues., Nov. 5	The lawless one will be revealed—2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:17	Isaiah 14:1-27
Wed, Nov. 6	If anyone will not work—2 Thessalonians 3:10-18	Isaiah 47:1-15
Thurs, Nov. 7	Men will deny the power—2 Timothy 3:1-13	Daniel 2:27-45
Fri., Nov. 8	The time is coming—2 Timothy 4:1-4	Daniel 7:1-28
Sat., Nov. 9	Because wickedness is multiplied—Matthew 24:1-14	Daniel 9:1-28
Sun., Nov. 10	Gospel Lesson, 3 rd to Last Sunday of the Church Year—Luke 17:20-30	Exodus 32:1-20

Pray the Collect for Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord's Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn of the Week

In the Very Midst of Life

LSB 755

1 In the very midst of life
Snares of death surround us;
Who shall help us in the strife
Lest the foe confound us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
We mourn that we have greatly erred,
That our sins Thy wrath have stirred.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us lest we perish
In the bitter pangs of death.
Have mercy, O Lord!

2 In the midst of death's dark vale
Pow'rs of hell o'ertake us.
Who will help when they assail,
Who secure will make us?
Thou only, Lord, Thou only!
Thy heart is moved with tenderness,
Pities us in our distress.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Save us from the terror
Of the fiery pit of hell.
Have mercy, O Lord!

3 In the midst of utter woe
When our sins oppress us,
Where shall we for refuge go,
Where for grace to bless us?
To Thee, Lord Jesus, only!
Thy precious blood was shed to win
Full atonement for our sin.
Holy and righteous God!
Holy and mighty God!
Holy and all-merciful Savior!
Eternal Lord God!
Lord, preserve and keep us
In the peace that faith can give.
Have mercy, O Lord!

Looking forward to the 2nd to Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 17, 2024

HYMNS: 513, 658, 614, 490

Exodus 32:1-20

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Luke 17:20-30