

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Week of All Saints' Day*

*November 3, 2024, through November 10, 2024*

**Life Thoughts--** Since God created humankind in His image, their fate belongs in His hands above Caesar's (Matthew 22:21). Life issues are more than just private or political—they are matters of the heart, to which the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks most directly and effectively. They must remain part of the Church's conversation for the sake of people struggling with them. *Prayer: Almighty God, impart unto us ears that rejoice to hear Your whole counsel and tongues that proclaim it with courage and compassion. Amen.*

**Stewardship Thoughts--** “With angels, archangels, and with all the company of heaven ...” When we gather around the altar of the Lord in His house, we pray and praise God “with all the company of heaven.” Those we have lost in the Lord are not truly lost to us — they have simply entered their rest with the Lord. As we gather to worship our Lord, we gather along with them. On the Last Day, everything that God has given into the care of our stewardship will fade away — everything except our brothers and sisters in Christ. Caring for one another in love and grace is our highest calling.

*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: Hebrews 12:1-2**

**“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”**

*Read or Chant Psalm 149*

## **Lord's Prayer--The Conclusion**

*For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**What does this mean?** This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for Daily Devotions</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sun., Nov. 3	<b>First Lesson, All Saints' Day—Revelation 7:2-17</b>	Proverbs 8:11-22
Mon., Nov. 4	We are fellow workers for God—1 Corinthians 3:1-23	Joel 3:1-13
Tues., Nov. 5	If you would be perfect—Matthew 19:16-26	Joel 3:14-21
Wed, Nov. 6	Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God—Luke 14:12-15	Obadiah 1-21
Thurs, Nov. 7	Watch; for you do not know when the time will come—Mark 13:1-37	Nahum 1:1-14
Fri., Nov. 8	Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion—Romans 9:14-33	Nahum 1:15-3:19
Sat., Nov. 9	If you confess with your lips—Romans 10:1-9	Isaiah 10:5-27
Sun., Nov. 10	Gospel Lesson, 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Last Sunday of the Church Year—Luke 17:20-30	Exodus 32:1-20

## **Pray the Collect for All Saints' Day:**

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, 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*

### *Behold a Host, Arrayed in White*

*LSB 676*

1 Behold a host, arrayed in white,  
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright!  
    With palms they stand;  
    Who is this band  
Before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame,  
Who from the great affliction came  
    And in the flood  
    Of Jesus' blood  
Are cleansed from guilt and shame.  
They now serve God both day and night;  
They sing their songs in endless light.  
    Their anthems ring  
    As they all sing  
With angels shining bright.

2 Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;  
But now, how glorious they appear!  
    Those martyrs stand,  
    A priestly band,  
God's throne forever near.  
On earth they wept through bitter years;  
Now God has wiped away their tears,  
    Transformed their strife

*Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.*

*Text: Public domain*

    To heav'nly life,  
And freed them from their fears.  
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest,  
The heav'nly banquet of the blest;  
    The Lamb, their Lord,  
    At festive board  
Himself is host and guest.

3 O blessèd saints in bright array  
Now safely home in endless day,  
    Extol the Lord,  
    Who with His Word  
Sustained you on the way.  
The steep and narrow path you trod;  
You toiled and sowed the Word abroad;  
    Rejoice and bring  
    Your fruits and sing  
Before the throne of God.  
The myriad angels raise their song;  
O saints, sing with that happy throng!  
    Lift up one voice;  
    Let heav'n rejoice  
In our Redeemer's song!

*Looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Last Sunday of the Church Year*

*November 10, 2024*

**HYMNS: 750, 658, 671**

**Exodus 32:1-20**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Luke 17:20-30**