

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Week of Reformation

October 27, 2024, through November 3, 2024

Life Thoughts-- God would have us forgive each other “from your heart” (Matthew 18:35). When terrible sins are involved, such as abuse or incest, it is no easy matter to forgive—maybe it even seems impossible. The same is true when trying to forgive ourselves when we have committed some horrible sin, like abortion, for example. The starting point for forgiveness in all situations is not what we should do but what God in Christ has done for us. Only His complete forgiveness can give us peace as we strive to forgive others and ourselves. *Prayer: Father, forgive our many sins for Jesus’ sake and give us opportunity to share this forgiveness freely with others. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- Romans 3:20 – “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” The Law of God is good — it’s just that we sinners cannot save ourselves by the Law. Salvation is a free gift of God because that is the only way we could ever be saved. The Law shows us God’s holiness and thus our own sin. And now in Christ we can look at the Law and see it in a new light as well: as a guide for how to live a godly life in thanksgiving to God for His gracious forgiveness in Christ.

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: Genesis 1:27

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Read or Chant Psalm 46

Lord’s Prayer--The Sixth Petition

Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Oct. 27	Gospel Lesson, 22nd Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 18:21-35	Micah 6:6-8
Mon., Oct. 28	Where two or three are gathered.—Matthew 18:12-22	Micah 4:9-5:11
Tues., Oct. 29	Whoever receives one such child in my name—Mark 9:33-50	Isaiah 49:14-21
Wed, Oct. 30	The kingdom of God is in the midst of you—Luke 17:20-37	Isaiah 2:10-21
Thurs, Oct. 31	About the children of the promise—Romans 9:1-13	Isaiah 63:1-6
Fri., Nov. 1	The stone which the builders rejected—Mark 12:1-12	Joel 2:1-11
Sat., Nov. 2	Good and faithful servants—Matthew 25:14-30	Joel 2:12-27
Sun., Nov. 3	First Lesson, All Saints Day—Revelation 7:2-17	Proverbs 8:11-22

Pray the Collect for Reformation Day:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Text: Public domain

Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Looking forward to All Saints Day (Observed)

November 3, 2024

HYMNS: 676, 670, 677, 822, Jerusalem the Golden

Revelation 7:2-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12