

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 November 19, 2023 through November 26, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Thanksgiving: The Christian Understanding—Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in our country. It dates back to the pilgrims who gave thanks for having made it through a brutal winter to a fertile spring and an abundant fall harvest. The history of national thanksgiving begs the question, “What if life had gotten worse for the pilgrims?” For the world, thanksgiving is based upon whether or not people have gotten something in their lives that they deem “good” and therefore worthy of thanksgiving. For the Christian, thanksgiving is exactly the opposite. Christian thanksgiving is rooted in the faith that receives all things from God, whether good or bad, because he is God. Because of Christ's death we understand that everything God does or allows to come into our lives, even if it causes us great pain and suffering, is ultimately for our good. God's greatest good is to preserve us steadfast in the Word and faith of our Savior until we die. This He promises to accomplish for us particularly in the midst of hardship and suffering. God accomplished His greatest good in the midst of what appeared to be the most heinous evil: the crucifixion of an innocent man. With the cross of Christ in view, we give thanks for all things, especially the hardship, suffering, and crosses of life, that through these we might be given occasion to rely upon our Savior alone.

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. 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 of the week: 1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Psalm 90 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	82, 84	85	88	89	91	102	90	24,
Evening	83	86	87	90	93	130, 16	80, 72	25, 110

The Catechism: The Table of Duties—What Hearers Owe Their Pastors – First Half

What does God's Word say the hearers of God's Word owe their pastors? The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14	First Grade +
Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Galations 6:6-7	Second Grade +
The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1 Timothy 5:17-18	Third Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Parable of the Talents—Matthew 25:14-30	Jer. 38:1-28	Matt. 27:57-66
Monday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 1:1-21	Matt. 28:1-20
Tuesday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 2:1-23	Rev. 18:1-24
Wednesday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 2:24-49	Rev. 19:1-21
Thursday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 3:1-30	Rev. 20:1-15
Friday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 4:1-37	Rev. 21:1-8
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Dan. 5:1-30	Rev. 21:9-27

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the Week of the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost:

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- 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.*
- 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 sacraments 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.*

In our Prayers at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Audrey Stoneburner, Joseph Menendez, Michael Clarke, Burgandy Knox, Arlene Davis, Darin Mitchell, Liz Lovato, Melissa Rodgers, Brian Willis, Heather Hattori, Connie Smith, Ella Littlefield, Tommy Rodhe, Mark Schroeder, Hudson Haney, Tim Finstad, Perrin King, Gordon Munson, Darlene Biehle, Kenneth Biehle, Henry Ostermann, Dante Pellegrino, Collene Pellegrino, Bobbie Sherrod, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Angel Menendez, and the Martin, Courtney, Bradshaw, Herbel, and Menendez families

Our Shut-ins

Emily Snipes, Deena Strang, Coy Warfield

Employment

Peace and Comfort

Expectant Mothers

Whitney Crutcher

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

Seminarians

Justin Chester, Tanner Sawall, John Schober

Blessings

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

"The Day is Surely Drawing Near"

LSB 508