

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 22, 2020 through November 29, 2020*

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 Corinthians 15:22

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Psalm 95 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—To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

What does God's Word say to Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers?

First Grade +

The overseer must be above reproach,
the husband of but one wife,
temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

First Grade +

not given to drunkenness,
not violent but gentle,
not quarrelsome,
not a lover of money.

Second Grade +

He must manage his own family well
and see that his children obey him with proper respect. [1 Tim. 3:2-4]

He must not be a recent convert,
or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. [1 Tim. 3:6]

Third Grade +

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,
so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine
and refute those who oppose it. [Titus 1:9]

Fourth Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299
Sunday	The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats—Matthew 25:31-46	Dan. 2:24-49
Monday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 3:1-30
Tuesday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 4:1-37
Wednesday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 5:1-30
Thursday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Dan. 6:1-28
Friday	No School—Thanksgiving Break	Is. 1:1-28
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Is. 2:1-22

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

Collect for the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year:

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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

Tina Sawall, Peg Munson, Diane Goains, Richard Schroeder, Rev. Barry Schwiesow, Jack Teague, Jacob Brewer, Orrion McJimsey, Debbie Drovwall, Joe Schober, Gordon Munson, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Our Shut-ins

Employment

Peace and Comfort

The Rice Family and the King Family

Expectant Mothers

Katherine Grisham

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

College Students

Gabrielle Funke, Hailey Richardson, Jared Rohloff, Logan Rohloff, Ben Schielke, Esther Schielke, Jacob Schielke, Gina Visingardi

Seminarian

John Schober

Blessings

The birth of Charlotte Aurora Crutcher to Kevin and Mallory on Friday

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

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

Hymn of Week

"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"

LSB 790