

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The week of the Third Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 12-18, 2017

Catechetical Notes for the week: *The first article teaches us that the first Person of the Trinity is the Father. Fathers give; so all things earthly and eternal come from the Father. He is the Creator of all that exists, creating all things out of nothing by His Word in six days and resting on the seventh. He did all this for the good of man, the crown of His creation. He has made us in our mother's womb. He has given to us all that we have from spouse to food to phones. He gives only what is for our good whether we see it or not, so we thank Him for all things. The first article shows us that we have viewed all we have as ours and not as gifts from the Father. We have thought that we have earned what we have and bettered our life by our hard work, and so we have forgotten that God gives all. We have looked to science first as to why things grow and reproduce and not to the God who spoke in the beginning. It calls us to repentance and faith in the God who gives us a Savior. He crafted Jesus' body in the womb of the Blessed Virgin so that the Word made flesh might do away with all sin and punishments of the Law by His physical suffering and death in the flesh.*

Theme: The urgency and suddenness of Christ's return.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.

<p><i>What is the first article?</i> I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.</p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.</p>	1st Grade+
<p>He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.</p>	2nd Grade+

DAILY READING

The Story Bible page

Monday	Genesis 1:1-13	21
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Tuesday	Genesis 1:14-2:3	23
Wednesday	Genesis 2	26
Thursday	Genesis 21:1-7	58
Friday	John 6:1-15, 25-58	358
Saturday	Daniel 7:9-14; 2 Peter 3:3-14; Matthew 25:31-46	(1 Kg 16-17) 218

PRAYER

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

Example:

Repeat the 1st Article

A teaching: Dear Father, in the first article You teach me that You have created all things, made me who I am, and by Your fatherly love, You give me only what is good for my body and soul.

A thanksgiving: I thank You for the work of Your creation, for giving me my talents and abilities, and for doing all things for my good, whether I see it in the moment or not.

A confession: I confess and ask for grace that I forgotten to thank You, but have credited myself for all that I have. When trouble arises, I have questioned Your fatherly love and control.

A prayer: I ask You for help in viewing You as the Giver all things. Lead me to always thank You for what I have and trust that You know what is best even if I cannot see it at the moment. Amen.

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Prayer for the Third Last Sunday of the Church Year

Almighty God, we beseech You: show Your mercy to Your humble servants; that we who put no trust in our own merits may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment, but according to Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever.

Luther's Morning/Evening Prayer

Morning: 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.

Evening: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This document is adapted from Lutheran Catechesis: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation by Peter Bender, © 2011.