

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the week of the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity  
November 15, 2020 through November 21, 2020

## Notes for the Week: *The End of the Church Year—Watching During the Great Tribulation*

*The Bride of Christ, the Holy Christian Church, waits eagerly for her Lord's Second Coming. Then she, of whom we are all members, will be delivered once and for all from sin and the corruption that is in the world. The "Great Tribulation" of the last days is the struggle that the Church and every Christian in every age has had with the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh. These enemies attack faith in Christ. We, Christ's Church, have been in the "Last Days" since our Lord's ascension into heaven. The faith of the Church has always been under attack. Our only defense as Christians is the Word of God which declares us His holy, chosen, and righteous bride, and the prayer of faith that claims Christ's victory in the midst of this suffering, looks forward to and prays for the day of our full and final redemption.*

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray out loud as much as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.*

### *Theme of the Week: Resisting the Wicked World*

#### **Invocation**

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

#### **Ten Commandments**

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

#### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

**Verse:** "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

#### **Psalm of the Week: 104**

#### **Daily Readings**

Sunday, November 15 Matthew 22:15 – 22 *Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes to Caesar Or Not?*

Monday, November 16 Judges 13:1 – 25 *The Birth of Samson*

Tuesday, November 17 Judges 14:1 – 20 *Samson's Philistine Wife and His Riddle*

Wednesday, November 18 Judges 15:1 – 20 *The Foxes, Torches, and the Jawbone of a Donkey*

Thursday, November 19 Judges 16:1 – 31 *Samson and Delilah*

Friday, November 20 Ruth 1:1 – 22 *The Family of Elimelech and Naomi*

Saturday, November 21 *Read tomorrow's Gospel: Matthew 25:1 – 13 The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins*

### ***The Catechism –The Lord's Prayer***

*What is the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer? What does this mean?*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

*What is the First Petition? What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

### ***Prayers***

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers:

*The Church:* Our congregation, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and President Matthew Harrison, The Nebraska District and President Richard Snow, our seminaries, sister churches, Pastor Andrew Gerike; *The World:* Our Nation, President, Governor, Mayor, all public servants, and the armed forces; *Our missionaries:* David & Valerie Federwitz & family, Daniel, Kathy, & Ana Conrad, Steven Braun; *Our homebound:* Ken & Joanne Jones, Susan Lutz, Jonas Sarka, Raymond Stevens, Louise Sullivan; *All others in need:* Paul Luedeman, Stephen Grobeck, Don Bruckner, Barb Grage, Joanne Dobrusky, Juliana Cloeter, Clifford Doll, Marleen Muenster, Dick Chappell, Tom Fiala, Evan Kerr, Richard Marunda, Char Emmanuel, Mary Kier, Pat Koch, Barb Masilko, Kristin Fittje, Dave Bandi, Elizabeth Fusselman, Paula Bruckner, those affected by the pandemic, especially Roger & Julie Abernathy, Rick Bills

Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy; grant them comfort and sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ***Lord's Prayer***

#### ***Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism***

*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.

#### ***Hymn of the Month***

*Jerusalem, O City Fair and High*

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