

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Third Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 9, 2025 through November 15, 2025

Notes on the Weekday Readings—Monday: The announcement to Abraham was followed by a visit of God Himself to Abraham's household. By this we are to be reminded that our Lord does not pass by His servants, but comes to them. The Blessed Trinity has not forgotten the promise to send the Savior who through His suffering, death, and resurrection has accomplished what is too hard for men. At the appointed time, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, to redeem us that we might have true joy and laughter. **Tuesday:** God invites us to pray and promises to hear us. He also desires to bless all nations and save them from judgment. Abraham came to God on the basis of the grace by which he was called. The prayer of faith always appeals to that grace, for there is no merit in the sinner. Abraham interceded just as Christ intercedes for us, that we might be spared from the destruction of the wicked world in time, and on the Day of Judgment. We likewise pray God to call others out of the wicked world through the preaching of the Gospel. **Wednesday:** The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is a picture of the events of Judgment Day. In the midst of destruction, the grace of God was at work as He delivered Lot from the destruction. We are taught here not only the reality of hell, but also the comfort that God will rescue from eternal fire all who believe in His Son. **Thursday:** Abraham did not perfectly or always trust the promise of God. And yet God calls him a prophet. It is God's promise that always drives His actions, not the worthiness or strength of faith of His people. This is what sustains faith in all of God's people. Great prophets and preachers are included in this. Though they are no worthier than Abraham, yet they are appointed by God as bearers of His promise to the nations of the earth and by which they themselves live. **Friday:** God once more speaks the promise for Isaac, and reassures Abraham that Ishmael would prosper. In the visit of the Angel of God to Hagar there is a foreshadowing of the New Testament church when the nations of the earth will be gathered together through the spring of living water under the tree of the cross. In Jesus there is resurrection from certain death as God hears our cries. Those once children of bondage will be made free.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

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

Theme of the Week: The Age Before the End

Invocation

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: "You He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Ephesians 2:1).

Psalm of the Week: 8

Daily Readings

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 24:15 – 28 <i>The Great Tribulation</i>	Malachi 2
Monday	Genesis 18:1 – 15 <i>The Three Visitors</i>	Malachi 3 – 4
Tuesday	Genesis 18:16 – 33 <i>Abraham Prays for Sodom</i>	Daniel 1
Wednesday	Genesis 19:1, 12 – 29 <i>Sodom and Gomorrah are Destroyed</i>	Matins: 2 Samuel 5:17 – 6:23
Thursday	Genesis 20:1 – 18 <i>Abraham and Abimelech</i>	Daniel 2
Friday	Genesis 21:1 – 21 <i>Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out</i>	Daniel 3
Saturday	Sunday's readings	Daniel 4

The Catechism – The Apostles' Creed: Third Article

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Prayers

Almighty God, we implore 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 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, Pastor Andrew Gerike, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, President Matthew Harrison, The Nebraska District and President Richard Snow, our seminaries, confessional Lutherans in Japan & Australia; *The World:* Our Nation, President, Governor, Mayor, all public servants, and the armed forces; *Our missionaries:* Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran Mission; *Our homebound:* Char Emmanuel, Pat Helmke, Marilyn Pacas, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers:* Courtney Christoffers, Elizabeth Fusselman, Jessica Whirrett; *All others in need:* Dick Chappell, Sandy Kemper, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Larry Ashe, David Christian, the Nuer people of South Sudan, Barb Masilko, Jean Young, Janet Christian, Jean Babel, Hayes Gonzalez, Genelle Rohe, Nancy Goesch, Tammie Stewart, Ezra Venteicher (friend of the congregation, heart issues), thanksgiving for our nation's veterans

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: ELH 537 *Day of Wrath, O Day of Mourning*

Looking forward to the Second Last Sunday of the Church Year

Daniel 12:1 – 3 2 Peter 3:3 – 14 Matthew 25:31 – 46

Hymns: 513, ELH 537, 508, 621, 733, 672, 512, 696, 336