

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

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

November 16, 2025 through November 22, 2025

Notes on the Weekday Readings—Monday: It was not to be Abraham's son, Isaac, who would be the sacrifice, but the Lamb of God. This substitutionary or vicarious atonement is the satisfaction that Christ made for the sins of the world by suffering the condemnation of the Law and dying in the place of sinful man. Here we see that true faith always centers on the death and resurrection of Jesus. **Tuesday:** Abraham did not want his son to marry one of the daughters of the Canaanite idolaters. He did not want his son to be seduced into false belief or receive any inheritance in the land apart from what God gave him. Terah's family was called out of Ur, so Nabor and his descendants had a knowledge of the true God and were connected to the promise through that call. God chose Rebekah beside a spring of water, so also today, God sets His bride, the church, apart for Himself through water in Holy Baptism. **Wednesday:** The servant detailed God's faithful activity in leading him to Rebekah that we might confess with Laban that this was indeed from the Lord. Rebekah willingly left her home in faith, trusting in the word of the servant that she was chosen by God who had been faithful and kind to Abraham. Isaac, mourning his mother, was comforted by his wife who was given him by God to continue to keep His promise to Abraham. **Thursday:** Rebekah had married the son of the promise, and yet at first she was barren. Isaac called upon God to keep His promise. Even with the gift of life, Rebekah needed to hear the Word of God from the mouth of His servant, because it is the Word alone that strengthens and keeps us firm in the faith. We ought not imitate Esau who sought and desired only what gave physical satisfaction, but treasure the promise of God that is given us. **Friday:** Though he had heard God's promise to curse those who curse him and multiply his descendants, Isaac feared for his life just as his father Abraham had before him. Once more it is God who will defend the woman He has chosen to be the mother of the bearer of the promise. Like Sarah, Rebekah would obey her husband because she trusted the Word of God's promise. Abimelech remembered the previous visit of Abraham better than Isaac and feared for his household. God used this Gentile to protect the lives of Isaac and Rebekah.

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 Final Judgment of All Men

Invocation

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not steal.

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

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or

You shall not murder.

maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

You shall not commit adultery.

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: "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared" (1 John 3:2a).

Psalm of the Week: 50:1–15

Daily Readings

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 25:31 – 46 <i>The Final Judgment</i>	Daniel 5
Monday	Genesis 22:1 – 19 <i>The Sacrifice of Isaac</i>	Daniel 6
Tuesday	Genesis 24:1 – 28 <i>Abraham Sends for a Bride for Isaac</i>	Daniel 7
Wednesday	Genesis 24:29 – 67 <i>Rebekah</i>	Matins/Vespers: 2 Samuel 7:1 – 29
Thursday	Genesis 25:19 – 34 <i>Jacob and Esau; Esau Sells His Birthright</i>	Daniel 8
Friday	Genesis 26:1 – 11 <i>Isaac and Abimelech</i>	Daniel 9
Saturday	Sunday's readings	Daniel 10

The Catechism – The Lord's Prayer: Introduction

Our Father, who art in heaven. *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.

Prayers

O Lord, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; 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, Chris Blank & Lydia Woods

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 Last Sunday of the Church Year

Joel 3:11 – 18 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 11 Matthew 25:1 – 13

Hymns: 663, ELH 537, 516, 639, 514, 510, 644, 676, 515