

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity
November 4 through November 11, 2007*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Third Article of the Creed—“Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and completed; Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work had remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation. Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves...Further we believe that in this Christian church we have the forgiveness of sins, which is granted through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire Gospel. Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God's grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin.”— *The Large Catechism, Third Article*

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.

Theme: Christians Live in God's Mercy toward One Another.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Psalm 116 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, since You have granted us the favor to call on You with one accord and have promised that where two or three are gathered together in Your name You are in the midst of them, fulfill now the prayers of Your servants, granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth and in the world to come life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	101	103	105	107	109	112,113	115	117, 118
Evening	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121

The Catechism: The Creed—the Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**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.**

Preschool +

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.

First Grade +

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.

Second Grade +

Readings for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Parable of the Unmerciful Servant—Matthew 18:21-35	Jer. 5:1-19	Matt. 22:23-46
Monday	The Three Visitors—Genesis 18:1-15	Jer. 7:1-29	Matt. 23:1-12
Tuesday	Abraham Prays for Sodom—Genesis 18:16-33	Jer. 8:18–9:12	Matt. 23:13-39
Wednesday	Sodom and Gomorrah Are Destroyed—Gen. 19:1 (2-11) 12-29	Jer. 11:1-23	Matt. 24:1-28
Thursday	Abraham and Abimelech—Genesis 20:1-18	Jer. 20:1-18	Matt. 24:29-51
Friday	Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out—Gen. 21:1-21	Jer. 22:1-23	Matt. 25:1-13
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Jer. 23:1-20	Matt. 25:14-30
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Jer. 23:21-40	Matt. 25:31-46

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 sacrament 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 this Week

*Partner Lutheran Churches and Missions around the world
 Alex Schultz and all other members of the military who are being deployed this week or currently serving.
 Audrey Steinhilb, hospitalized in Green Bay following an automobile accident
 Jan Mauritz undergoing therapy at Linden Grove Care Center*

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

Hymn of Week

"I Walk in Danger All the Way" (st. 1 and 5)

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Look forward to the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

November 11, 2007

Hymns: 791, 714, 587, 548

Proverbs 8:11-22: *Solomon reminds us that to the extent the kings of the earth have any wisdom, they have it from God.*

Philippians 3:17-21: *The Apostle Paul instructs us that as Christians we should understand that our true "citizenship" is not of this world but is rather in heaven, so that our affections are not resting upon things that are fleeting but the eternal truths of the Gospel.*

Matthew 22:15-22: *God rules the world through two kingdoms He has established: the secular and the spiritual. He rules the secular kingdom, under the Fourth Commandment, through the governments of the earth that He has established. As the Scriptures teach, "there is no authority except that which God has established." The secular kingdoms of the earth rule by the force of law and the threats, punishments, and rewards of the law. The secular kingdom is concerned about preserving life in the world. The spiritual kingdom is the Church and God's gracious rule in the hearts of Christians by His Word and Spirit. This kingdom does not use the force of the temporal sword. This kingdom preaches the Word of God and is concerned about the faith of the heart. This is why Jesus says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." Each of God's kingdoms has its place in the world and each of these kingdoms has its unique work from God.*