



THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation & Prayer

Trinity +3 | June 21-27, 2026

*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.*

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

2 SAY THE 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE OUR FATHER

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.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR 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.

5 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK—Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

CATECHESIS NOTES FOR THE WEEK

This passage [John 20:21-23] is the “divine command” of Christ to which the Catechism specifically refers under the Office of the Keys. Ministers forgive the sins of repentant sinners and withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant by the authority of Jesus’ command. The Father sent Jesus to forgive. Jesus sends His ministers to forgive. “Peace to you” means, “Your sins are forgiven before God in heaven!” This word is more than an announcement of forgiveness; absolution actually delivers Christ’s forgiveness to us. Jesus’ word of forgiveness is, itself, a divine command: “Sin, you have no power over them! You cannot kill them! You can’t separate them from Me! Sin, you are no more! Your wages have been paid! Atonement has been made! Sin, you are forgiven! Be gone!”

The Lord Jesus breathed out His Holy Spirit upon the disciples by speaking this word of forgiveness to them. It is the same for us. Where sins are being forgiven, there, in the very word that is spoken, the Holy Spirit is being given. Holy Absolution and the Holy Spirit can never be separated. The Holy Spirit is breathed out upon us when our pastor says, “I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” When the pastor forgives sin “in the stead and by the command of Christ,” Christ Himself is forgiving sin and breathing forth His Holy Spirit upon us to revive faith and renew us in the righteousness of Christ that covers all our sin. Holy Absolution returns us to our baptism where we were declared righteous and proclaimed to be the sons of God through faith in Christ, and where the Holy Spirit was first poured forth upon us, bringing us to faith and cleansing us from all sin. (Excerpt from *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition*, p. 268b)

CATECHISM: Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:

**The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.**

**If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.** *John 20:22-23*

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

First Grade +

Second Grade +

Third Grade +

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF TRINITY +3

Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.

Day	Feast/Saint/Commemoration	Daily Lectionary
Sunday	Proverbs 9:1–10 / 1 John 3:13–18 / Luke 14:16–24	
Monday	<i>Feria</i>	Acts 21:1-39 / 1 Sam. 2:1-21
Tuesday	Vigil of Nativity: Jeremiah 1:5–10 / Luke 1:5–17	Acts 21:40-22:29 / 1 Sam. 3:1-21
Wednesday	Nativity St. John Baptist: Isaiah 49:1–7 / Luke 1:57–68	Acts 22:30-23:35 / 1 Sam. 4:1-22
Thursday	Present. Augsburg Conf.: 1 Tim 6:11–16 / Matt 10:26b–33	Acts 24:1-27 / 1 Sam. 5:1-12
Friday	Sts. John and Paul: Sirach 44:10–15 / Luke 12:1b–8	Acts 25:1-27 / 1 Sam. 7:1-17
Saturday	<i>Looking forward to Sunday: Is 58:6–12 / Rom 8:18–23 / Luke 6:36–42</i>	Acts 26:1-32 / 1 Sam. 8:1-22

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

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:

LCMS District: Atlantic District

Partner Church: Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark

LCMS Missionaries: The Stigdon Family (Dominican Republic); Melissa Pflug (Romania)

LCMS Education: Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne

Sick & Recovering: Jocelyn Davey, Annette Teague (Z), Marge Utley (F)

Grieving: Family of James Cooper

6 PRAY THE **PSALM** OF THE WEEK— Psalm 99

Throughout this year of Congregation at Prayer, we will be praying the Psalms in canonical order (i.e., the order in which they're found in the canon of Scripture). Each Sunday's bulletin will include a helpful handout for the Psalm of the week. Please locate the Psalm in either your hymnal or bible and join in praying these ancient hymn-prayers of the Church. If the Psalm is a particularly long one, you might consider splitting it up and praying it over multiple days.

7 READ THE **CATECHISM AND SCRIPTURE** READINGS (INSIDE COVER)

Read the Feast/Saint/Commemoration reading first. As time permits, continue with the Daily Lectionary.

8 PRAY THE **COLLECT** (PRAYER) OF THE WEEK

O God, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: multiply upon us Thy mercy, that, Thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through goods temporal that we finally lose not the goods eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

9 PRAYER FOR **OURSELVES AND OTHERS** (INSIDE COVER)

10 SAY OR SING THE **HYMN** OF THE WEEK (LSB 743; Johann Franck, 1618-77) "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" (sts. 1-4)

1 Jesus, priceless treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine,
O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

2 In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash
And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

3 Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r
Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

4 Hence, all earthly treasure!
Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss,
Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.