THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

Daily Devotional & Scripture Reading Suggestions

The week of the

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Families and individuals are encouraged to pray and confess as much of this order of meditation as they are able, or as their family size and ages dictate. If able, the head of the home should lead the family in devotion, with the entire family speaking the words in ***bold****.*

Invocation

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

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The appointed Scripture reading from one of the following schedules or another reading may be read. An excerpt from a devotional book and its supplemental Scripture verses may be read in this place as well. The reading/devotion may be followed by discussion and/or questions & answers for better understanding.

Daily Lectionary

Sunday:	Malachi 1:1-14	Matthew 3:1-17
Monday:	Malachi 2:1 – 3:5	Matthew 4:1-11
Tuesday:	Malachi 3:6 – 4:6	Matthew 4:12-25
Wednesday:	Deuteronomy 1:1-18	Matthew 5:1-20
Thursday:	Deuteronomy 1:19-36	Matthew 5:21-48
Friday:	Deuteronomy 1:37 – 2:15	Matthew 6:1-15
Saturday:	Deuteronomy 2:16-37	Matthew 6:16-34

Family Bible Readings

Sunday:	- - - -
Monday:	Mark 3:1-12
Tuesday:	Mark 3:13-35
Wednesday:	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday:	Mark 4:21-34
Friday:	Mark 4:35-41
Saturday:	- - - -

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

One or more verses from Sunday's Hymn of the Day (*) or from one of the following hymns may be sung or spoken.

500*	"Lord God, to You We Give All Praise"	498	"Stars of the Morning"
481	"Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"	499	"Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken"

Reading from the Small Catechism

A section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism may be read with the goal of each family member being able to memorize a sensible portion.

The Lord's Prayer: First Petition

Preschool + *What is the First Petition?*
Hallowed be thy name.

Second Grade + *What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.

Third Grade + *How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when his Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But whoever teaches and lives contrary to God's Word dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, dear Father in heaven!

Reading from the Lutheran Confessions [1]

An excerpt from the Book of Concord (The Lutheran Confessions) may be read here or at another time during the day.

Monday:	Formula of Concord: Epitome	VII 1-15	pages	509-511
Tuesday:	Formula of Concord: Epitome	16-32	pages	511-512
Wednesday:	Formula of Concord: Epitome	33 – X 2	pages	512-514
Thursday:	Formula of Concord: Epitome	3 – XI 3	pages	514-516
Friday:	Formula of Concord: Epitome	4-15	pages	516-517

Prayer

In addition to the previous Sunday's Prayer of the Day, the following themes may be incorporated into your daily prayer routine.

Sunday:	Pray for the joy of the resurrection; for the fruit of faith nourished by the gospel; and for God to continue to shine the light of his gospel into this world of darkness.
Monday:	Pray for your calling and daily work; for workers and the unemployed, your neighbors, schools, teachers, students, and civil authorities– that all may give glory to God.
Tuesday:	Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted, despairing, suffering and oppressed – that all may know deliverance from sin through Christ.
Wednesday:	Pray for marriage; for families and individuals, communities and neighborhoods – that all may live in harmony and believers may rejoice in being children of God.
Thursday:	Pray for the Christian Church; for pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all who serve Christ; for the spread of the gospel and the proper use of the sacraments.
Friday:	Pray for the sick, the injured, and the dying – that all may know the eternal life that comes through Jesus' death and resurrection.
Saturday:	Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of faith in those who are withering or who have fallen away; for believers as they prepare to receive God's grace.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[1] Courtesy of Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.