

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**Theme for the Week** – Our Lord Jesus Christ graciously supplies forgiveness for the soul and food for the body.

**Devotional Thoughts:** “‘Bring them here to me,’ [Jesus] said.” (Matthew 14:18) Lord, You would have me come to You to be fed, to be nourished with the precious food of forgiveness. As You fed the five thousand on that day so long ago, with what looked like meager resources, so also You feed me day after day with what, to my eyes, also look so small and meager – Your Word and Sacrament. Just ink on a page is Your Word – but it is nothing less than the power of God. Just a sip of wine, a bite of bread – but in, with, and under that simple meal is Your precious body and blood. And why? Why would You feed me with such gifts as these? To give and assure me of Your forgiveness – which truly is food for my soul, food which gives me eternal life!

Can I ever be satiated with such food? Can I ever have too much? Oh, may it never be so, dear Lord! As there were 12 basketfuls left over after You fed the five thousand, so also Your abundance in feeding me with forgiveness through Your Word and Sacrament is limitless. There will always be “enough” for one like me who sins time and again. There will always be “enough” for those times I need the assurance of Your love. There will always be “enough” to sustain me as I walk through this sinful world until I sit at Your table forevermore in heaven!

The Verse of the week continues our look at important passages to learn by heart. The Catechism portion is taken from the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper where we see the blessings our Lord gives to us. The Readings for the Week conclude our look at the Gospel of St. Matthew.

## 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.

### Invocation –

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

### Apostles’ Creed

**Verse of the Week: John 6:35** – Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar – II

What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?

That is shown us by these words, “**Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.**” Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

## Readings for the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Readings for the Family
Monday	Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate - Matthew 27:1-26
Tuesday	The King of the Jews is Mocked - Matthew 27:27-44
Wednesday	Jesus’ Death and Burial - Matthew 27:45-66
Thursday	The Resurrection of Our Lord - Matthew 28:1-15
Friday	The Great Commission to Baptize and Teach - Matt 28:16-20
Saturday	Meditations or Sunday’s Readings

### Prayers:

#### The Lord’s Prayer

#### The Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism

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

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.

### Looking forward to next Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – 8/3/08

**Theme:** The gospel promises of our Lord Jesus Christ turn hearts to faith and strengthen faith.

**1 Kings 19:9-18:** After the victorious face-off between the Lord and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, Elijah was dejected by the thought that he alone followed the Lord.

**Romans 9:1-5:** St. Paul has a pastor’s heart for his own people. Many blood-descendants of Abraham have rejected their Savior Jesus, in spite of all the rich blessings of Old Testament grace. May God help us to never despise the richer blessings of the New Testament fulfillment!

**Matthew 14:22-33:** The disciples are terrified at the sight of Jesus walking across the water toward their boat. Fears are dispelled by Jesus’ words, “Don’t be afraid.” Faith is emboldened at Jesus’ invitation, “Come!” And the arm of the Almighty is never too short when little faith trembles.