

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 27th, 2011 – July 2nd, 2011

Theme for the Week – O God, Our Help in Ages Past!

Devotional Thoughts: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39) Such wise words, dear Lord, yet words I too often ignore. My sinful nature doesn’t want to hear such words. It only wants to seek what it thinks is best, what benefits me, not others or You. How often haven’t I sought to find my life in the things of this world! How often I try to find my worth in that which so easily fades away! I look for security in a bigger paycheck, in a comfortable home, in more and more friends. For my misguided priorities – forgive me, O Lord.

But to lose all for Your sake? Can it be done? Only by You filling my heart with Your grace and forgiveness. “Earth has no pleasure I would share; Heaven itself were void and bare if You, Lord, were not near me.” (CW 434) Though the economy move into recession, though the gas prices rise, though I may lose friends because of my association with You – lead me to cling to You more and more. My security is found in You, for in You I find my life – true life here and hereafter. “Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord, forsake me not! I trust Your Word.” (CW 434)

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 17:17 – Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer – 1st Petition

Hallowed be Thy Name

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.

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!

Readings for the week of the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Readings for the Family
Monday	A House Divided Cannot Stand - Matthew 12:22-32
Tuesday	A Tree Is Known By Its Fruit - Matthew 12:33-50
Wednesday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed - Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday	The Purpose of Parables - Matthew 13:10-23
Friday	The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares - Matthew 13:24-34
Saturday	Meditations or Look to Sunday’s Readings below

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 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost – 7/3/11

Theme: God desires mercy, not sacrifice!

Hosea 5:15-6:6: When God’s people no longer listen to Him, He gives them their way and leaves them floundering in their own hopelessness until they repent. Even then, God does not seek the sacrifice of a quick, but eloquent, ‘Forgive us, Lord.’ God wants that loyal love that keeps Him at the center of our lives at all times and in all places.

Romans 4:18-25: Faith in God’s promises is the golden thread that links believers of all ages to our Savior-God.

Matthew 9:9-13: Jesus’ mission was to save sinners. In mercy, the holy Son of God associated with sinners – even ate with the notorious ones – to call them into His kingdom.