

Congregation in Prayer Oct 8, 2017

During the month of October, as we draw close to the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, we will have a special sermon series: "Lutheran Distinctives". Today, we focus our attention on Law and Gospel, our traditional biblical focus on sin and grace. The Law shows us our sin and its consequence: death. The Gospel shows us our Savior and His gift of life, abundant and eternal! [Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Law & Gospel

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

Psalm 19:1 (ESV) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

The First Article: Creation	Kindergarten +
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.	
<i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.	Third Grade +
This is most certainly true.	

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday	The Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14
Monday	The Lord Confirms That Moses Is His Prophet—Numbers 16:19b-40
Tuesday	The Budding of Aaron's Rod—Numbers 16:41—17:13
Wednesday	Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)
Thursday	The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9
Friday	Balaam's Donkey—Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38
Saturday	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Gracious Lord, in your compassion you seek not the death of the sinner but their repentance. Cause us to see with your eyes and heart so that we may have compassion for our neighbor – to feed them when they are hungry, to clothe them when they are cold, to speak the Law in love, and to console with the Gospel.

Monday: Holy Father, as Solomon asked for wisdom, we too ask that you make us wise so that we may see the Holy Spirit at work in our community and follow where he leads and to love our neighbor as you have called us.

Tuesday: Almighty Lord, You have called your people at Our Savior to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths we have not yet trod, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us.

Wednesday: Gracious Lord Jesus, help us to abide in You and in Your Word, so that by the power of the Spirit at work in us, we may bear fruit for You – the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and a fruitful witness to those we impact through our Words of witness and our compassionate acts of service to our neighbor.

Thursday: Lord Jesus, as You spent time in this world of ours preaching, teaching and healing, so help us to spend time with the people around us bringing them hope, healing and new life in Your name. As we speak with them and as we serve them in Your name, may they come to know You and Your grace in their lives.

Friday: Forgive us, Lord, for the times that we have had good intentions about sharing the Good News with others but have failed miserably because we were more focused on ourselves and our own needs and desires. Forgive us for the times that our efforts to reach others with the Gospel have been more about us than about them.

Saturday: Lord Jesus, You came into our world, not to condemn us, but to save us. You became flesh and blood so that we could see just how much God loves us. Help us to be “flesh and blood” examples of God’s love in our neighborhoods to the people who do not yet know You that they may come to know Your love and mercy.

Lord’s Prayer

Going with God’s Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Is. 25:6–9

Phil. 4:4–13

Matt. 22:1–14