

**Daily Devotions for Home and Family**  
*For the Week of The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*  
November 11 through November 17

**[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]**

<sup>263</sup> Righteousness is faith in the heart. Sins are redeemed by penitence, that is, the obligation or debt is removed because God forgives those who are penitent, as is written in Ezek. 18:21, 22. We are not to reason from this that God forgives because of the works that follow or because of alms, but because of his promise he forgives those who take hold of that promise. They do not take hold of it unless they truly believe and by faith conquer sin and death. Reborn in this way, they bring forth fruits worthy of penitence, as John the Baptist says (Matt. 3:8). The promise is therefore added (Dan. 4:27), “Behold, there will be a healing of your offenses.”

<sup>264</sup> Here Jerome adds an extraneous particle expressing doubt, and in his commentaries he maintains with even less authority that the forgiveness of sins is uncertain.<sup>8</sup> Let us remember that the Gospel promises the forgiveness of sins with certainty. It would clearly be an abolition of the Gospel if we were to deny that the forgiveness of sins must surely be given by a promise. Let us therefore dismiss Jerome in the interpretation of this text, though the promise is involved even in the word “redeem.” It signifies that the forgiveness of sins is possible, that sins can be redeemed, that the obligation or debt can be removed, that the wrath of God can be stilled. Everywhere our opponents omit the promises and look only at the commandments, adding to them the human theory that forgiveness depends upon works. The text does not say this, but rather requires faith. Wherever there is a promise, there faith is required. Only faith can accept a promise.<sup>265</sup> In human eyes, works are very impressive. Human reason naturally admires them; because it sees only works and neither looks at nor understands faith, it dreams that the merit of these works brings forgiveness of sins and justification. This legalistic opinion clings by nature to the minds of men, and it cannot be driven out unless we are divinely taught.<sup>266</sup> The mind must be turned from such fleshly opinions to the Word of God. We see that the Gospel and the promise of Christ are presented to us. We must not reject the promise of Christ when the law is preached and works are enjoined. We must first take hold of the promise so that we may be able to do good and that our works may be pleasing to God, as Christ says (John 15:5), “Apart from me you can do nothing.” If Daniel had said, “Redeem your sins by penitence,” our opponents would have passed over this passage. He uses other words to express this same thought, and our opponents immediately twist his words to mean the very opposite of the teaching of grace and faith, while Daniel most emphatically wants to include faith. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. IV:263-266

***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

**Invocation**

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

## 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.

## Psalm – 146

### The Catechism – *The Ten Commandments – 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment*

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

### Daily Readings:

Sunday, November 11 – Matthew 25:31-46 (*Commemoration Martin of Tours, Pastor*)

Monday, November 12 – Matthew 26:1-19

Tuesday, November 13 – Matthew 26:20-35

Wednesday, November 14 – Matthew 26:36-56 (*Commemoration of Emperor Justinian, Christian Ruler & Confessor of Christ*)

Thursday, November 15 – Matthew 26:57-75

Friday, November 16 – Matthew 27:1-10

Saturday, November 17 – Matthew 27:11-32

**Meditation** (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

### Prayers

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Grant us so firmly to believe in Your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church	Stacy Harris	Reginold Kennedy
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	Jim Sclafani	Christine Whitman
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Andrew Brooks	Jennifer Whitman
The Atlantic District	Lorraine Keller	Annmarie Diehl
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	Ernie Getzelman	Edward Karen
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Lisa Harris	George Becker
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Tom Keller	Charles Tichy
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	John O'Rourke	Larry Harris
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Barry Turgen	Cassie Forrest
Concordia College – New York	Patrick Dougherty	Steven Roth
The Rev. John Nunes	Louise Blydenburgh	Karen Salamone
The Concordia University System	Suzanne Weil	Geralyn Morgan
Lutheran Parochial Schools	Frances Flanagan	Bob Hunter
Our Sister Churches	Richard Duffy	Richard King
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Marge Glass	Kayla Spero
The United States of America	Bubby Verspoor	Madeline Giarraputo
President Donald Trump	Lenny Kiesling	Mike Cardomone
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Rob Arrasate	Rudy Morgenfruh
U.S. Military Personnel	Josephine Lowth	John Henning
All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers	Lee Sclafani	Derek Hrankowsky
Thelma Stegemann	Michael Seeger	Anthony Grimaldi
Irene Jones	Kathy Schneemann	Dave Brooks
Florence Vollmer	Don Lang	Kenneth Steuer
Susan Marotta	Deanna Schwartzman	Andrew Manise
	Nancy Galasso	Kim Cozza-Checkers
	Diane Dadone	Herb Kahl
	Allison Ruddick	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Donald Smith	The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo Coffey
	Philip Latham	Alexandria Rappe
	Pat Simmons	Ann Inoue
	Cathy Ochs	
	Lois Eckert	

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

### 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.

### Hymn for the Week – *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

*LSB #717, st.4*

O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
Our people shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

### Closing Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Looking ahead for The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:

*Daniel 12:1-3*

*Hebrews 10:11-25*

*Mark 13:1-13*