**The Congregation at Prayer**

**New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian, Indiana**

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year

Beginning November 24, 2019

***Theme: Jesus Christ Reigns, Enduring the Cross — Its Scorn and Shame.\****

**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: Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)***

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved”

***Psalm 46***

***The Catechism: The Third Article\*\****

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| --- | --- |
| 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. | Preschool + |
| *What does this mean?*  I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength  believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;  but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,  enlightened me with His gifts,  sanctified and kept me in the true faith.  In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies  the whole Christian church on earth,  and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.  In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins  and the sins of all believers.  On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead,  and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.  This is most certainly true. | Second Grade + |

***Readings for the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year***

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| **Day** | **Reading** |
| Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday | **Last Sunday of the Church Year** – Luke 23:27-43  Isaac Is Born and Ishmael Is Cast Out – Genesis 21:1-21  Sacrifice of Isaac – Abraham’s Faith Is Revealed – Genesis 22:1-19  Abraham Sends for a Bride for Isaac – Genesis 24:1-28  Rebekah – Genesis 24:29-67  Jacob and Esau – Esau Sells His Birthright – Genesis 25:19-34  **Prepare for Sunday** – **Advent 1** – Matthew 21:1-11 |

***Prayers:***

*Collect for the Week of the Last Sunday of the Church Year*

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Prayer on the Catechism*

*The Third Article:* Holy Spirit, by our own reason or strength we cannot believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him, but You have called us by the Gospel and enlightened us with Your gifts in Word and Sacrament. By your grace, keep us steadfast in the one true faith unto life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

*In Our Prayers This Week*

*The following members: Russell Sponseller; Erik, Katie, Ethan, and Emily Todd; Gordon and Sarah Truex; James and Sandra Trumbower; Abraham, Kari, Luke, and Owen Wallis; Thelma Yager.*

***Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism***

***The Hymn of the Week: “The Day is Surely Drawing Near” LSB 508***

***Looking forward to the First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2019***

***Hymns***: 339, 332, 343, 508, 617, 639, 334 *(Lutheran Service Book)*

***Readings:*** Isaiah 2:1–5

Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14

Matthew 21:1–11 *or* Matthew 24:36–44

***The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now***

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem *“humble, and mounted on a donkey,”* riding on *“a beast of burden”* (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Matt. 21:9). For we are called *“to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob,”* His Holy Church, *“that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths”* (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we *“walk in the light of the Lord”* (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which *“does no wrong to a neighbor”* (Rom. 13:10). We *“cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,”* for *“salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”* (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, *“for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”* (Matt. 24:42).\*

“The Congregation at Prayer” has been adapted from the model provided by Peter Bender, *Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation* 2nd Edition (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2011), 21-22 and the September 1, 2019 version at peacesussex.org/downloads (accessed 9/17/2019) as well as Peter Bender’s Master Schedule for 2019-2020 academic year found at www.lutherancatechesis.org/resource (accessed 10/10/2019).

\*Theme and lectionary summary provided by www.lcms.org/worship/lectionary-summaries.

\*\*Catechism format adapted from the Lutheran Catechesis Learn-By-Heart Edition (Sussex, WI: Concordia Catechetical Academy, 1998). Translation of Luther’s Small Catechism Copyright © 1986 by Concordia Publishing House.