

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: [insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.] Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but ✠ deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

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.

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.

**BLESSING**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all.

**Amen.**

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**LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY:** *The Last Sunday of the Church Year*

Isaiah 65:17–25	Psalms 149	1 Thessalonians 5:1–11	Matthew 25:1–13
Hymn of the Day	Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying		LSB 516

# The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *The Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity*

**Sunday, November 15 through Saturday, November 21**

**“Render to God the Things of God”**

Proverbs 8:11–22; Philippians 3:17–21; Matthew 22:15–22

When confronted with the civic duty of paying taxes, our Lord Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate, walked **“in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice”** and discerned that wisdom **“is better than jewels”** and **“better than gold, even fine gold”** (Proverbs 8:11–22). When we set our minds on earthly things, such as wealth and passing glory, our **“end is destruction”** (Philippians 3:19). However, our humble and prudent Lord has rendered **“to God the things that are God’s”** (Matthew 22:21), namely, perfect fear, love, and trust, as well as the complete sacrifice for our sin. In so doing, He also rendered to Caesar the things of honor and justice, submitting to the law of the land that put Him on the cross. True riches and honor are with Christ, and the wealth and righteousness that lasts is found in Heaven. We await the return of our Lord Jesus Christ who **“will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself”** (Philippians 3:20–21).

**INVOCATION** *(make the sign of the holy cross and say)*

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**THE 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 is seated 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting.

**PSALMODY** *(sing or read out loud each day)*

Psalm 111

**LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM: Table of Duties**

**DUTIES SUBJECTS OWE TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES**

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21).

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. Therefore one must be subject, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due” (Romans 13:1, 5–7).

“I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way” (1 Timothy 2:1–2).

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for any honest work” (Titus 3:1).

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right” (1 Peter 2:13–14)

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Sunday, November 15:</b>	Psalm 137	Job 25-26	Isaiah 46-47	Revelation 7:1-8:5
<b>Monday, November 16:</b>	Psalm 138	Job 27	Isaiah 48-49	Revelation 8:6-9:21
<b>Tuesday, November 17:</b>	Psalm 139	Job 28	Isaiah 50	Revelation 10
<b>Wednesday, November 18:</b>	Psalm 140	Job 29	Isaiah 51:1-52:12	Revelation 11
<b>Thursday, November 19:</b>	Psalm 141	Job 30	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Revelation 12
<b>Friday, November 20:</b>	Psalm 142	Job 31	Isaiah 54	Revelation 13
<b>Saturday, November 21:</b>	Psalm 143	Job 32	Isaiah 55	Revelation 14

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode*

*LSB 714*

**PRAYERS**

*The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:*

**Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

**Monday:** For faith to live in the promise of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God’s Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.

**Friday:** For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ’s holy gifts.

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.