

# FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Last Sunday of the Church Year  
November 24 – November 30, AD 2024

Considering the First Article of the Apostles' Creed gives us the opportunity to consider our duty or our obligation to God as the one who creates, sustains, and protects us. But ideas like duty and obligation are not words that we like to hear.

They demand action even when we don't feel like it. We are constantly bombarded with the idea that we shouldn't have to do anything we don't want or like. We see that as too restrictive, unfair, or demanding. And whose flesh doesn't love being told that its own wants and desires are the most important, how you feel about something should always dictate what you do? Our lives as those created by God are lives of holy obligation, holy duty. We belong to God and He created us for His purposes. We don't get to claim any rights against Him. It would be foolish to try to do so. God created us in mercy to bless us with all that is good. When He lays duties upon us, they are for our good, not His. We are daily recipients of His love and care. Dr. Luther lists out a number of those things in his explanation to this article but those are just the tip of the iceberg. We can't claim credit for a single thing we have - from the sheer fact of our existence to our greatest achievements. All glory belongs to God. As such it is our duty to thank and praise God for His goodness and His mercy toward us though we deserve none of it. It is also our duty to use all that He has graciously bestowed upon us for His purposes according to the vocations which He has laid upon us. God grant that we repent of letting our feelings rule us and instead help us that we might in all things thank and praise, serve and obey Him alone.

## **The Catechism**

*As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. 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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

## **The Creed – The First Article**

### **Creation**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?* 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.  
This is most certainly true.

## **THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

### **INVOCATION**

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

***1 John 3:15 – Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know, that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.***

### **Psalm 31**

### **HYMN OF THE MONTH**

***"Oh, How Blest They Are" (LSB 679)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6xkQzaOHc4>

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

① SUNDAY	MATTHEW 25:1-13	
② MONDAY	LUKE 18:1-8	2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-12
③ TUESDAY	ACTS 7:51-60	MATTHEW 5:43-48
④ WEDNESDAY	LUKE 12:13-21	2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15
⑤ THURSDAY	LUKE 17:11-19	PHILIPPIANS 4:6-20
⑥ FRIDAY	LUKE 12:22-34	1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4
⑦ SATURDAY	JEREMIAH 23:5-8 *	ROMANS 13:8-14

**\* SATURDAY – ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE, JOHN 1:35-42A**

## PRAYERS

### COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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.

### DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

**SUNDAY:** *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

**MONDAY:** *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

**TUESDAY:** *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

**WEDNESDAY:** *For marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; parents who must rear their children alone; for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

**THURSDAY:** *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

**FRIDAY:** *For the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

**SATURDAY:** *For faithfulness to the end; the physically and mentally sick and those who are dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- For all who serve in public safety as police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, that God would protect them, give them courage in danger and grant them wisdom as they perform their duties, especially Joshan Savage (police officer), Joe Krizan (firefighter and paramedic), Elisabeth Handgraaf, Will McCrillis, Jonah Underwood (paramedics).
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Matt Thibodeaux (24), Robyn Steele (25), Brenna Hackbart (29)
- Baptisms celebrated this week: Noah Horn-Martinez (29)
- Those experiencing unemployment: Matt and Michael.
- Emma Cassanova, Brianna Mallon, Renae Womack for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Dony Reaves, Chris Purcell, Connie Kimber, Tula Sheehan, Doug Drawe, Antonia, Jill, Deanna, Dana Evans, Rush, Christina Null, Sharon, Gaye, Georgette, Tim Sheehan.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

---

## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

### **The First Sunday in Advent (Ad Te Levai) – December 1, 2024**

**Catechism:** The Lord's Prayer – The Fifth Petition

**Hymns:** 334, 332, 516, 333, 620, 601, 341

**Readings:** Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 21:1-9

