

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity
July 16, 2017 through July 23, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Link Between the Office of the Ministry and Faith — "It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by our own merits, works, or satisfaction, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. To obtain such faith God instituted the preaching office to give the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, He gives the Holy Spirit; who works faith, when and where He pleases, in those who hear the Gospel. And the Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this" — Augsburg Confession, Articles IV & V

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: "Come, Follow Me!" the Savior Spake.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18

**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

Psalm 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Thanks be to You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter sufferings, Your shameful death, and Your joyous resurrection.

Enlighten our eyes to see in You the way to life. Uphold us by Your truth so that we do not fall into self-righteous blindness, idolatry, and false worship. Preserve us in the true faith to eternal life, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68
Evening	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69

Readings for the Week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Sunday	The Fishermen Are Called to Be Fishers of Men—Luke 5:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Monday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:14-21	Romans 4:1-25
Tuesday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36	Romans 5:1—6:2
Wednesday	Out of Man's Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20	Romans 6:12-18
Thursday	A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus' Word—Matthew 15:21-31	Romans 7:1-25
Friday	The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39	Romans 2:1-29
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Romans 13:1-7
Sunday	Sunday's readings	Matthew 5:20-26

The Catechism: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys

is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners,

but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

First Grade +

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:

The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, **Receive the Holy Spirit.**

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;

if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23]

Second Grade +

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Third Grade +

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Catechism Prayers, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity:

O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Office of the Keys

O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to you that you have given to Your church on earth that special authority to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. Grant faithfulness to Your church and her ministers in preaching the Gospel and administering Your Sacraments. Deliver us from all impenitence and unbelief. Give us truly repentant hearts that, confessing our sins and fleeing to Your mercy, we might receive from You the full and free forgiveness of all our sins. By Your forgiveness, strengthen our faith in You and grant us to live in faithfulness and love toward others. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Confidence to Believe in the Promise of the Office of the Keys

O Lord Jesus, You gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to Your disciples and promised that if they forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; and if they do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. Grant us to believe Your promise, so that we receive the ministry of our pastors in repentant faith and with the confidence that they are speaking on Your behalf and for the sake of our souls' salvation. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer to Receive the Ministry of Your Pastor

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Office of the Holy Ministry. Give faithfulness to my pastor as he calls me to repentance and faith in Your Son. Strengthen me to believe that when my pastor deals with me by Christ's divine command—whether he excludes me from the Lord's Supper for a time in order to call me to repentance, or absolves me when, by the grace of God, I repent of my sins and want to do better—that this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, my dear Lord, dealt with me Himself; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

For the sick and recovering: Cindy Hirtz, Lisa Eldridge, and Pat Loose (receiving treatment for cancer); Sandra Lawrence, hospitalized in Greenfield for chronic wound care treatment; Dee Grossman, hospitalized at Elmbrook Hospital.

Elaine Boetcher in hospice care

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”

688

Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July 23, 2017

Hymns: 596, 562, 565, 594, 563, 558

Exodus 20:1-17: *The Law is given to preach repentance in order that Christ might be received. Christ alone has fulfilled the whole will and Law of God. We need the Law because we are sinners who need to be directed back to Him again and again.*

Romans 6:1-11: *In our Baptism we are buried with Christ into His death and raised with Christ into His resurrection. This means that all that He is and has done becomes our own and all that we are has become His. This is the basis of our salvation and our standing before God. We are covered with the righteousness of Christ that sets us free and enables us to live in the freedom of the forgiveness of sins.*

Matthew 5:17-26: *"Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Who then can be saved? The only righteousness that "exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees" is the righteousness of Christ. He alone fulfilled every "jot and tittle" of the Law by His sinless life and by offering up His life to satisfy the Law's just demand for atonement. We must have the righteousness of Christ as our very own in order to be saved. His righteousness alone covers all sin and makes us acceptable to God. His righteousness is received by faith as it is proclaimed to us in the Gospel and sacraments.*