

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi  
 May 13, 2018 through May 20, 2018

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — To Employers and Supervisors**—Christian employers and supervisors are also to be governed in their work by their faith in the Gospel. This is the meaning of the phrase “in the same way.” In the same way that workers are led by their faith in the Gospel to be faithful in their work, employers and supervisors are to be led by the Gospel in their conduct toward their workers. A Christian employer is not to threaten, coerce, or abuse his workers. This does not mean that a Christian employer has to put up with laziness or shoddy workmanship from his employees. Faith in God’s grace and forgiveness does not mean tolerating sin, malfeasance, or neglect of one’s duties. Faith in God’s grace and forgiveness means that the Christian employer administers his office within the secular kingdom fairly, impartially, and for the welfare of his other employees and customers. If a worker requires discipline or needs to be fired because of failures in the workplace, such actions are not taken out of vengeance but with the understanding that Christ is the “Master” of both the employer and the employee and “there is no favoritism with Him.” A worker who is derelict in his duties must be disciplined or removed from his work, not primarily because he is stealing from his employer (which he is), but because his failures hinder the capacity of his employer to serve others in love with the services and work his business provides.

**To Youth**—“Submission” and “humility” are not terms that any of us naturally gravitate toward. The sinful flesh wants to submit to no one and is filled with arrogance and pride. If the sinful flesh doesn’t get its way, it rebels. Where does the will to “submit” and “humble one’s self” come from? It comes from faith in the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus submitted Himself as a young man, because He trusted in His Father who promised to do good through His submission. He humbled Himself to the point of death on the cross, because He trusted His Father to do good through His suffering. When youth are admonished to submit to their elders and humble themselves before them, they are really being invited to trust God to do them good in their office as youth, even though they may have to endure things that they don’t agree with or enjoy. The way of faith is always the way of deference toward others. This we learn to believe through the faithful reception of the Gospel and Sacrament of our Lord. [Reprinted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

## 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: The Spirit of Truth Testifies of Jesus!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Revelation 21:4

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
 there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.  
 There shall be no more pain,  
 for the former things have passed away.

#### Psalm 51 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil ways and live. Graciously spare us those punishments which we by our sins have deserved, and grant us always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105
Evening	90	93	94	97	99	102	104	106

### Readings for the Week of the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	<b>The Coming of Persecution—John 15:26—16:4</b>	Num. 14:1-25	Luke 18:18-34
Monday	Goliath the Philistine Giant—1 Samuel 17:1-19	Num. 14:26-45	Luke 18:35-19:10
Tuesday	David Journeys to the Battlefield—1 Samuel 17:20-37	Num. 16:1-22	Luke 19:11-28
Wednesday	David Kills Goliath—1 Samuel 17:32, 37-54	Num. 16:23-40	Luke 19:29-48
Thursday	Saul Resents David—1 Samuel 17:55—18:16	Num. 16:41-17:13	Luke 20:1-18
Friday	David Marries Michal—1 Samuel 18:17-29	Num. 20:1-21	Luke 20:19-44
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Num. 20:22-21:9	Luke 20:45-21:19
Sunday	Sunday’s readings	Num. 21:10-35	Luke 21:20-38

**The Catechism: The Table of Duties— To Employers and Supervisors; To Youth**

<p><i>What does God’s Word say to Employers and Supervisors?</i>  Masters, treat your slaves in the same way.  Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven,  and there is no favoritism with Him.</p>	<p>Third Grade +  Ephesians 6:9</p>
<p><i>What does God’s Word say to Youth?</i>  Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older.  All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,  because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”</p>	<p>First Grade +  1 Peter 5:5</p>
<p>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand,  that He may lift you up in due time.</p>	<p>Second Grade +  1 Peter 5:6</p>

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

**Prayer for Employers and Supervisors**

*Gracious Lord, You have given us great responsibilities and authority as employers and supervisors of others. Teach us by Your grace and mercy to treat our workers and those who are under us with respect, understanding, and compassion. Give us a humble spirit toward them and help us to see our workers as gifts of God who depend upon us for their livelihood and who enable us to be of greater service to others for whom we perform our life’s work; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**Prayer for Youth**

*O Lord, as You in humility and faith submitted Yourself to Mary and Joseph and to every authority instituted among men for our salvation, teach us to submit to our elders and to believe that You will accomplish Your good purposes in our lives and in the lives of others through such honor and respect; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

**In Our Prayers this Week**

- Michael Schaff hospitalized at Community Memorial Hospital.
- Guenther Bollmeyer in physical therapy at Linden Grove, Waukesha.
- Phyllis, sister of Rosie Kopting, in hospice care.
- The family and friends of Linda O’Neill, who mourn her death.

**Collect for the Gift of the Holy Spirit**

*Almighty God, You have commanded us to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We beseech You most heartily, through Jesus Christ, our Advocate, to grant us Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, that by Your saving Word He may enliven our hearts and lead us into all truth, guiding, instructing, enlightening, governing, comforting, and sanctifying us unto everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter/Exaudi**

*O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“Christ Is the World’s Redeemer” (stanza 1)**

**Looking forward to the Feast of Pentecost**

**May 13, 2018**

**Hymns: 489, 497, 828, 502, 599, 768**

**Genesis 11:1-9:** At the Tower of Babel man’s speech was confused by God because of the idolatry of man’s heart. On Pentecost all confusion, disorder, envy, and pride is put to flight as the one Gospel of God’s grace and salvation in Christ is proclaimed in many languages and to many peoples. The word of the Gospel restores the peace and harmony that was lost at Babel.

**Acts 2:1-21:** The evangelist St. Luke records the signs and events of the first Pentecost. 50 days after Easter and 10 days after our Lord’s ascension, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles so that they would be enabled to remember what Jesus had taught them and faithfully preach His Word for the repentance and salvation of sinners.

**John 14:23-31:** We have fellowship with the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus and the Word of the Gospel. True faith loves Christ and all that He says. Love for Christ and His Word receives strength from the Word. Just as the Holy Spirit was sent to the apostles to bring to their remembrance everything that Jesus had taught them, so Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit is the Father’s gift to us through His Word. By the Word of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to us, imparting to us Jesus’ peace—the peace of sins forgiven, peace with God, and the peace of a conscience that is free from guilt and the Law’s threat of punishment. All this Jesus promises us when He says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep [believe, trust, and depend upon] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”