

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Trinity
June 10, 2018 through June 17, 2018

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Kingdom of God and the Parables of Jesus: The Small Catechism teaches us how to listen to God's Word. It often defines terms found in the Scriptures. Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of God. Under the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer, the Catechism teaches us that the kingdom of God centers in the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ—a faith that trusts in the Word of God and that leads a godly life here in time and forever after in eternity. This means that the kingdom of God is about the Church and the ministry of the Gospel. We see these themes in the **Bible Stories for the Week**. On Monday Jesus calls, **the Twelve Apostles**. By the power of His Word, proclaimed by His ministers, Jesus casts out demons, binds Satan, destroys unbelief, and creates faith. In the **Parable of the Sower and the Seed**, Jesus teaches us that the Word of God is the only thing that can create faith (God's kingdom) and that Satan, persecution, and earthly riches war against that faith and seek to destroy it. In the **Parable of the Growing Seed**, faith in Jesus is the seed to grow almost imperceptibly by the power of the Word and Spirit of God. Jesus is the content of the small seed of the Gospel, the **Parable of the Mustard Seed**. It grows into a mighty tree, the Church, which gives help and comfort to many. The Church is depicted in **Jesus Stills the Storm**. He is the object of our faith and His Word alone gives peace and salvation for His weak and trembling disciples.

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.

Theme: Blessed Is He Who Shall Eat Bread in the Kingdom of God!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Psalm 1:1-2

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and in His law he meditates day and night.**

Psalm 34 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, there is no want to those whose faith and hope is in You. Grant us daily to praise Your holy name, to call upon You for all our needs, and to taste of Your divine goodness in the Gospel and Sacraments that we may learn to believe that those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit shall be saved, and that no one who trusts in You shall be condemned; 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	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27
Evening	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25

Readings for the Week of the Second Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Parable of the Great Supper—Luke 14:15-24	Prov. 8:22-36	John 13:1-20
Monday	The Twelve Apostles—Mark 3:13-35	Prov. 9:1-18	John 13:21-38
Tuesday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Mark 4:1-20	Prov. 10:1-23	John 14:1-17
Wednesday	Jesus Tells Parables of the Kingdom of God—Mark 4:21-34	Prov. 13:1-25	John 14:18-31
Thursday	Jesus Stills the Storm—Mark 4:35-41	Prov. 14:1-27	John 15:1-11
Friday	Catch Up on Mark Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Prov. 15:1-29	John 15:12-27
Saturday	Catch Up on Mark Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Prov. 16:1-24	John 16:1-16
Sunday	Sunday's readings	Prov. 17:1-28	John 16:17-33

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer— The Second Petition

What is the Second Petition? Thy Kingdom come.	Preschool +
What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.	First Grade +
How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your kingdom comes to us wherever the Gospel of Jesus is preached and His sacraments are administered. Through these gifts You give us Your Holy Spirit and create faith in our hearts. We give thanks to You for these gifts. We give thanks to You for the promise that Jesus will come again in glory on the Last Day to give us all the fullness of His kingdom. Forgive us for failing to pray for the coming of Your kingdom. By Your Word and Spirit, reign in our hearts and in Your Church. Through the promises of the Gospel, continue to give us Your Holy Spirit, so that by Your grace we believe Your holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and forever after in eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Jim and Mary Nitzsche, celebrating their 46th wedding anniversary.

Denny Mack, Verla Gatchell's brother, suffering with many health issues and clinical depression.

Wayne Loose, recovering from pneumonia and receiving treatment for other health issues.

Bob Zaretzke, in ICU at Froedtert hospital, recovering from a motorcycle accident.

Judy Jones, recuperating from hip surgery; Michael Schaff and Guenther Bollmeyer in therapy;

Phyllis, sister of Rosie Koplmg, in hospice care.

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

622

Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Trinity

June 17, 2018

Hymns: 599, 608, 596, 594, 820, 598

Micah 7:18-20: The Triune God is the only true God, because He alone is the God of mercy and salvation by grace alone. Our life with Him is established only on the basis of His undeserved mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness toward us. "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy" (vs. 18).

1 Timothy 1:12-17: The Lord's salvation of Paul stands as a sign that God can save the worst of sinners. Paul clearly confesses that his office and apostleship was a gift of God's grace alone, that in Paul's ministry as an apostle other sinners might come to know the overwhelming grace and salvation of God in Christ. Paul's conversion and reception of God's grace and salvation in Christ is a sign to all of us. If the Lord can rescue the likes of Saul of Tarsus who had persecuted the Church and fought so violently against the Gospel, then He can save any sinner from the condemnation of hell.

Luke 15:11-32: The Parable of the Prodigal Son. The Parable of the Prodigal Son is the third of the three parables Jesus told to address the Pharisees and scribes murmuring against Him that He received sinners and ate with them. Jesus' reception of sinners does not mean that He condones sin, but rather that forgiveness of sins is granted by God's grace alone to every broken and contrite sinner. The parables also address the question, "Is it possible for a Christian who has fallen into grievous sin to be restored to repentance?" The answer is a resounding "YES!" The lost sheep had belonged to the Shepherd before it went astray and then was sought after and found by the Good Shepherd. The coin was the cherished possession of the woman who lost it so that she dropped everything that she was doing to search for it until it was found. The prodigal son was the son of his father before he squandered his father's love and left home. In all three parables the love of God for His own is on display in how He searches out to reclaim those who had belonged to Him. In the account of the Prodigal Son, the young man not only wasted his inheritance in prodigal living, but in so doing he squandered the love of his father who had given him everything. Yet, when nothing would satisfy the deepest needs of his soul, it was the father's love that called the son home in repentance and faith. To illustrate that it is ultimately God's grace that reclaims us and gives us the courage to confess our sins, while the son is still a great way off the father runs to him, puts his arms around him, kisses him, and extends to him a father's heart of unconditional love. This is a vivid picture of what the Gospel is: God takes the initiative for our salvation; God sends His only Son to die for us apart from any merit or worthiness on our part; the Lord sends forth the Gospel to be preached to call us home to the Father. The father's heart of love for his son had not changed, even though the son had gone astray. This is the basis for our salvation in Christ. It is His greatest joy to restore His fallen children to repentance and faith. This is why there is such joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. This is why the father celebrates his son's return: he was restored to the family by the father's love and mercy. Not only that, the father was overjoyed that his son RECEIVED his love and believed it. The older son in the parable is representative of those self-righteous Pharisees and scribes who were murmuring against Jesus. The father went out to the older son and pleaded with him to come into the house and receive his brother in mercy, but the parable does not indicate what the older brother did. It is open ended. Will the self-righteous Pharisee repent of his self-righteousness and embrace the mercy of God, or will he remain hardened in heart?