

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Feast of Pentecost

May 31, through June 7, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week—*The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified as God and Lord. The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the Spirit of love for it is by the Spirit that we are drawn into the fellowship of the love of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is always the Spirit of Christ who shines upon the person and work of our Savior, calls us to repentance and faith, and bestows upon us every blessing that Jesus won for us. The Spirit's means or instruments by which He does His work are the Gospel and Sacraments of Christ.*

The Third Article of the Creed—*“Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit. The work is finished and completed; Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work had remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation. Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves...Further we believe that in this Christian church we have the forgiveness of sins, which is granted through the holy sacraments and absolution as well as through all the comforting words of the entire Gospel. Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God's grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin.” The Large Catechism, Third Article*

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: Through the Word We Have Fellowship with God!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 14:26

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send I My name,
He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Psalm 143 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Spare us, O Lord, and mercifully forgive us our sins. Though by our continual transgressions we have merited Your chastisements, be gracious to us. Grant that all these punishments which we have deserved may not come upon us, but that all things may work to our everlasting good; 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	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Pentecost: “Peace I leave with you...”—John 14:23-31	
Monday	Pentecost Monday: Acts 10:34a, 42-48	John 3:16-21
Tuesday	Pentecost Tuesday: Acts 8:14-17	Isaiah 32:14-20
Wednesday	The Genealogy of Jesus—Matthew 1:1-17	Isaiah 1:16-20
Thursday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 2:2-5
Friday	The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11	Isaiah 3:1-11
Saturday	Holy Trinity: Isaiah 6:1-7	Romans 11:33-36

The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**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. Amen.**

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	First Grade +
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Third Article

O Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son to give life and salvation to the world, and who, together with the Father and the Son, we worship and glorify as the only true God, receive our thanks and praise for proclaiming Christ to us through the preaching of the Gospel and gifts of the holy sacraments. Faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, and love for God and our enemies are all Your creations and gifts to us through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Preserve the holy Christian Church among us through the faithful preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Bless the communion of saints that every baptized Christian, sharing in Christ's love through the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, might abide in Christ and bear witness to His love in all that we do and say. Give us firm hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, so that we might faithfully endure persecution for Jesus' sake and suffer all, even death itself, rather than fall away from Him who gave His life for us. Hear us, O Holy Spirit, for You live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Melody Ruhbusch, Karl Stemke (5/30), Olivia Volquardsen (5/31), Glenn Bollmeyer, Olivia Gehlbach (6/2), Mike Christopherson (6/3).

Wedding Anniversaries: Allan and Jeannine Gabel (5/30), Jon and Peggy Lundberg (5/31), Doug and Bonnie Westrich (6/1), Karl and Maria Stemke (6/4), Rev. Dustin and Staci Anderson (6/5).

Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion

The sick: Roger Laubenstein, recovering from a blood infection and receiving cancer treatment;

Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS; Walter Schmutlach, with an inoperable tumor;

Pat Murphy suffering with an infection and back pain; Doris Erickson, hospitalized with congestive heart failure.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

Collect for the Feast of Pentecost

O God, on [the day of Pentecost] You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

LSB 497

Looking forward to the Feast of the Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

Hymns: 590, 580, 571, 742, 876

Isaiah 6:1-7: "I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah made this confession of his own sin and unworthiness when he was called by the Lord to be a prophet. This confession should be made by every minister of the Word. If our call was based upon our worthiness, there would be no ministers. Isaiah's worthiness was in the Lord who had purged him of his sins so that he might preach the Word of God faithfully. Herein lies an important message: the minister is equipped to preach the Gospel when he himself is a hearer and believer in that Gospel. If he doesn't hear and believe it for himself, he will never be able to minister it to others. The Vision of Isaiah is appointed for Holy Trinity Sunday because of the vision of the angels of heaven who sing the Sanctus, Holy, Holy, Holy, around the throne of God. This song of the angels teaches us that life with and in the Blessed Trinity is opened to us through the ministry of the Word of God that proclaims forgiveness of sins to sinners.

Romans 11:33-36: Paul extols the richness of the grace and love of the Holy Trinity, which is beyond our capacity to fully grasp and understand. All glory belongs to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because of His great mercy and lovingkindness to us.

John 3:1-17: God is revealed to us in our Baptism where we are born again of water and the Holy Spirit. In our Baptism God gives us His strong name which proclaims to us who He is and all that He does for us. It is as if He were saying, "I am the one true God. I give you my Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; You belong to me. I have adopted you as my very own. I am the Father who created you. I am the Son who has redeemed you by My blood. I am the Holy Spirit who has called you to faith and sanctifies you through the blood of Christ. I am your God." The strong name of the Triune God is our protection throughout life. Let us call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. "Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity: let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us. O Lord, our Lord: how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (From the Introit for Holy Trinity)