

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday after Trinity
June 14 through June 21, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 80—A Prayer for the Church's Restoration—Psalm 80 depicts the Old Testament Church as “a vine that the Lord brought out of Egypt.” He cast out the nations before them and planted them in the promised land. He established His vine in the land and “the hills were covered with its shadow.” “She sent out her boughs to the Sea, and her branches to the River.” But Israel rebelled against the Lord, so “He broke down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit.” Because of her unfaithfulness, He permitted her to be uprooted by the unclean boar and the wild beasts. Psalm 80 is a metaphor for the New Testament Church. Unfaithfulness to the LORD'S Word often causes the Church to suffer oppression at the hands of the enemies of the Church who do not believe the Gospel. If the Church loses her distinctiveness as a people who preach the Word of God in all its fullness and who confesses that there is salvation in no one else but the Lord Jesus, she has nothing to offer the world and has lost her first love. Psalm 80 begins, therefore, as a prayer to the LORD for deliverance from the Church's own shortsightedness and prays for the restoration of His vine. It appeals to the LORD who met Israel for her salvation in the blood of atonement that was offered upon the mercy seat between the cherubim in the temple of the Lord. The Church looks to the blood of Christ—the location of God's mercy and restoration. “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel... Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved! O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people?” Oppression, suffering, persecution, and distress often befell the New Testament Church to purge out unbelief and to establish a faithful vine from the remnant of the repentant faithful. Ultimately, the Church's salvation is only found in “the Man of Your right hand, the Son of Man whom You made strong for Yourself.” The eyes of faith must look only to Christ for deliverance from our own shortsightedness and rebellion against God's Word, “then we will not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name ... and we shall be saved!”

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: Moses and the Prophets Call Us to Repentance and Faith

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Genesis 15:6

[Abraham] believed in the LORD,
and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Psalm 80 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, preserve Your Church in Your Word and in the faithful confession of Your name. Grant us to be Your faithful vine for the Church's salvation and as a witness to Your love before a fallen world. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91
Evening	77	79	81	83	86	87	90	93

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 1: Luke 16:19-31—The Rich Man and Lazarus	
Monday	Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:38-48	Isaiah 10:1-4, 20-23
Tuesday	The Lord's Prayer—Matthew 6:1-18	Isaiah 11:1-10
Wednesday	Lay Up for Yourselves Treasure in Heaven—Matthew 6:19-34	Isaiah 12:1-6
Thursday	Jesus Is the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:1-14	Isaiah 13:9-13
Friday	The Wise Man Builds His House on the Rock—Matthew 7:15-29	Isaiah 14:12-21
Saturday	Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Matthew 8:1-4	Isaiah 17:7-11

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part III

<p><i>How can water do such great things?</i> Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:</p>	Third Grade +
<p>He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,</p>	Kindergarten +
<p>whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,</p>	First Grade +
<p>so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. [Titus 3:5-8]</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer Concerning the Power of Baptism

Heavenly Father, You teach us that the Word of God in and with the water does great things, working forgiveness of sins, rescuing us from death and the devil, and giving us the gift of eternal salvation. Without Your Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with Your Word our Baptism is life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit. Thank You for this precious teaching. Forgive us all doubt. Grant us firm faith to trust Your Word in the water, that every blessing of Baptism may be ours; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Joshua Franklin (6/13), Jennifer Clark, Marcy Gall, Sharon Martin, Christine Meyle (6/15), Erich Greschner (6/18).

Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion.

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

Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS;

David Ellestad, suffering with the aftermath of strokes;

Walter Schmuclach, with an inoperable tumor;

Pat Murphy suffering with severe back pain;

Katie Fischer and her unborn baby;

David Berger undergoing brain surgery this week.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

Collect for the First Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all who trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You in both will and deed; 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

"To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray"

LSB 768

<p><u>Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Trinity</u></p> <p>Hymns: 536 (1, 3-5), 510, 628, 573, 818</p> <p>Proverbs 9:1-10: Repentance, which is a word describing the character of saving faith, involves a "change of mind" or a "different way of believing" about one's self and one's Lord. It involves the letting go of the self as god because of the belief in one's sin, and the laying hold of Christ as God because He is the only Savior. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."</p> <p>Ephesians 2:13-22: St. Paul teaches concerning the Church and the fellowship of Jew and Gentile together. The Jews and the Gentiles were formerly estranged from one another, but by the blood of Christ the two who were at enmity are now reconciled to each other by the forgiveness of sins. This reconciliation of grace that we share from our Lord has broken down both the wall of partition separating sinners from each other and the wall of partition separating us from God.</p> <p>Luke 14:15-24: The parable of the Great Supper teaches us that the call of the Gospel to receive salvation in Christ is like an invitation which is rejected because people have "more important things to do." These "things" are really the false faiths of the flesh. They represent the idolatry of the sinful heart that believes in works or any other "god" for its life and salvation. If those who rejected would have believed in their true need for God's salvation, they would have received the invitation with joy. Those who are helpless and needy receive the invitation and believe the Gospel. Those who believe they have no need reject the invitation and are excluded from salvation.</p>	<p>June 21, 2020</p>
--	-----------------------------