

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Trinity
July 5 through July 12, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 83—Prayer for the Church Against Oppression from Her Enemies—The Old Testament church often found herself surrounded by enemies, foreign powers, who sought to destroy both the nation of Israel and her faith. The persecuted and suffering Church of the New Testament needs to read the psalms as applying to our situation today, as the false teachings of the world don't merely stand alongside the teachings from God's Word, but actually fight against it. The world is full of many false teachings, but they often have one thing in common: a malevolent hatred of the Gospel of Christ and the confession of Christianity. Tolerance in our world abounds for every other teaching and point of view except Christianity. Christians often experience the condition of being in the minority and the object of societal discrimination and the bigotry of political correctness. Against this backdrop, the psalmist prays, "Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head... They have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You." We learn from this psalm prayer that the Lord will deal with the enemies who attack the Church. We are simply called to be faithful and to entrust ourselves to the care and protection of Him who suffered all for our redemption. "O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like chaff before the wind! Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that men may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth."

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: We Live Quiet and Peaceable Lives by God's Mercy in Christ!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 12:14-15

Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse.
Rejoice with those who rejoice,
and weep with those who weep.

Psalm 83 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138
Evening	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 4: "Be merciful..."—Luke 6:36-42	
Monday	Jesus Preaches Repentance and Faith—Matthew 11:20-30	Isaiah 28:16-19
Tuesday	Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath—Matthew 12:1-8	Isaiah 29:13-24
Wednesday	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath—Matthew 12:9-21	Isaiah 30:15-22
Thursday	A House Divided Cannot Stand—Matthew 12:22-32	Isaiah 31:1-9
Friday	A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit—Matthew 12:33-50	Isaiah 32:1-8
Saturday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Matthew 13:1-9	Isaiah 33:1-6

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

What is the Fifth Petition?

And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Preschool +

What does this mean?

Second Grade +

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them.
We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.
So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

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

Prayer on the Fifth Petition

Heavenly Father, forgive us our trespasses. Do not look upon our sins, or deny any of our prayers because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that You would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. Grant us Your forgiveness, so that we, too, will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Rosie Koplring (7/6), Anders Rhode (7/8), Mitchell Dubnicka, Gus Kütemeier (7/9).

For those serving in the armed forces: John Franklin (ROTC- MN National Guard), Jessica Franklin (Captain in the Air Force), Mark Meyle (Marine Corp), Evon Ingraham (National Guard), Robert Haga, (Marine Corp).

Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion.

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

Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS;

Katie Fischer and her unborn son Patrick;

David Berger recuperating from brain surgery;

Jim Nitzsche suffering pain from a fractured pelvis.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

Collect for the Nation

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.. Amen.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; 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

"O God, My Faithful God"

LSB 696

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

July 12, 2020

Hymns: 831 (Sung to LSB 616), 688, 647, 828, 718

I Kings 19:11-21: The prophet Elijah is shown by the Lord that the Lord's greatest power and glory will be demonstrated in the "still small voice" of His Word that preaches salvation to the poorest and lowliest sinner. So it is for us, in the time of faith, this earthly life, the Lord comes to us in His Word. Unlike Satan, He does not force Himself upon us in an oppressive and coercive way; He speaks to us, calling us to repentance and faith that He might bestow upon us the freedom of life with God through the forgiveness of all our sins.

I Peter 3:8-15: In his epistle to the church that is sojourning through this world, the Apostle Peter encourages her members to live each day by the common faith they confess and by the common love they share: "Be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this." It is by the characteristics of mercy, compassion, and forbearance that the church should be known in this world. The call of the Gospel of God's grace enables us to live in grace toward others and this is what the world should see from Christians. When asked, "Why do you live like this?" We are prepared "to give a defense to everyone who ask...a reason for the hope that is in [us] with meekness and fear."

Luke 5:1-11: By a great miracle, Jesus called four fishermen to be fishers of men in token that the Gospel must be preached to the four corners of the earth. Peter, on behalf of all ministers, rightly confessed "we have toiled ... and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your Word" we will preach the Gospel. This miraculous sign gave Peter a deep sense of his own sinfulness. The minister of the Gospel has no strength apart from the Word he is called to preach. But this Word is all-sufficient for the task at hand. "To obtain faith in Christ" the Lutheran reformers declared in the Augsburg Confession, "God instituted the preaching office to give the Gospel and Sacraments. Through these (the Gospel and Sacraments) the Holy Spirit works faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel." (Augsburg Confession, Art. V)