

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity
July 12 through July 19, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 84—A Prayer of Delight in the Lord’s Divine Service—The Patriarch Jacob rightly confessed “the LORD is in this place” when he heard and received the Lord’s Word in the wilderness. Wherever the Word of Christ is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution, it is a “Bethel”—House of God. This is what makes the Tabernacle of the Lord so lovely and why we long to go to the house of God. Faith yearns to receive the Lord’s Word and Supper, and so the psalmist prays, “My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” This yearning is expressed in the basic prayer of faith at the beginning of the Divine Service: “Lord, have mercy upon us!” It is a prayer which believes that everything that we need both spiritually and temporally flow from the Lord’s grace which is offered to us in the Word. The Word of God is like a spring of living water, or rain that covers the earth with pools that refresh the soul. “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You!” Throughout our earthly pilgrimage it is the Lord’s Word that sustains, comforts, and refreshes us. Interestingly, the psalmist draws attention to how even the sparrows could nest in the Old Testament Tabernacle. It is a sign of how the Church of Christ benefits the whole world, even those who do not realize the importance of the Church’s presence for the welfare of the whole earth. May the words of psalm 84 ever be our prayer: “A day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness... O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!”

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: The Holy Ministry of the Spirit

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Psalm 84 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, how lovely is Your church where the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation are received. Give us such a faith that throughout our earthly pilgrimage, in good times and bad, our souls ever long for the refreshment and comfort that comes through Your Word and Sacraments alone; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2	5	8, 9
Evening	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3	4, 6	7

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 5: “I will make you fishers of men...”—Luke 5:1-11	
Monday	The Purpose of Parables—Matthew 13:10-23	Isaiah 33:17-24
Tuesday	The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares—Matthew 13:24-35	Isaiah 34:1-4, 8
Wednesday	Parables of the Kingdom—Matthew 13:36-46	Isaiah 35:1-10
Thursday	The Parable of the Dragnet—Matthew 13:47-58	Isaiah 36:1-2, 13-22
Friday	John the Baptist Is Beheaded—Matthew 14:1-13	Isaiah 37:1-20
Saturday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:14-21	Isaiah 37:21-37

The Catechism: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

First Grade +

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:
The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, **Receive the Holy Spirit.**
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23]

Second Grade +

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, Daily Themes for Prayer (LSB p. 294), In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

Prayer for Confidence to Believe in the Promise of the Office of the Keys

O Lord Jesus, You gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to Your disciples and promised that if they forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; and if they do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. Grant us to believe Your promise, so that we receive the ministry of our pastors in repentant faith and with the confidence that they are speaking on Your behalf and for the sake of our souls' salvation. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer to Receive the Ministry of Your Pastor

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Office of the Holy Ministry. Give faithfulness to my pastor as he calls me to repentance and faith in Your Son. Strengthen me to believe that when my pastor deals with me by Christ's divine command—whether he excludes me from the Lord's Supper for a time in order to call me to repentance, or absolves me when, by the grace of God, I repent of my sins and want to do better—that this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, my dear Lord, dealt with me Himself; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Harold Kampin, Grace Kirk (7/11), Laura Ferguson, Kara Rhode (7/13), Meghan Krueger (7/14).

Wedding Anniversaries: Larry and Toni Garms (7/15).

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The sick: Roger Laubenstein, hospitalized with a blood infection and receiving cancer treatment;

Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS;

Shirley Alvara, sister-in-law of Mary Schneider recently diagnosed with cancer and receiving treatment;

Abigail Sarfo in Ghana on dialysis for renal failure;

Katie Fischer and her unborn baby;

David Berger in serious condition with pneumonia following brain surgery;

Jim Nietzsche recovering from a fractured pelvis.

Jim Weber, receiving in-home care following a series of falls.

In hospice care: Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

Those who mourn: The family of Dawn Dobbert, cousin of Kent Franklin, who died of brain cancer.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”

LSB 688

Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July 19, 2020

Hymns: 596, 562, 594, 623, 603

Exodus 20:1-17: The Law is given to preach repentance in order that Christ might be received. Christ alone has fulfilled the whole will and Law of God. We need the Law because we are sinners who need to be directed back to Him again and again. This is the most important function of the Law, for without this function there could be no repentance and the Gospel could not create faith. But the Law also functions in society and home to maintain order and to curb the gross outbreaks of evil. The Law also functions to guide the Christian in knowing what is true, good, right, and wrong. By virtue of our faith in Christ, the new man in us desires to please God and do what is right according to the Law.

Romans 6:1-11: In our Baptism we are buried with Christ into His death and raised with Christ into His resurrection. This means that all that He is and has done becomes our own and all that we are has become His. This is the basis of our salvation and our standing before God. We are covered with the righteousness of Christ that sets us free and enables us to live in the freedom of the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 5:17-26: “Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Who then can be saved? The only righteousness that “exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees” is the righteousness of Christ. He alone fulfilled every “jot and tittle” of the Law by His sinless life and by offering up His life to satisfy the Law’s just demand for atonement. We must have the righteousness of Christ as our very own in order to be saved. His righteousness alone covers all sin and makes us acceptable to God. His righteousness is received by faith as it is proclaimed to us in the Gospel and sacraments.