

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
 July 26 through August 2, 2020

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 86—A Prayer for Mercy that Meditates upon the Lord’s Goodness—**In psalm 86 David prays for help yet confesses himself to be holy. He says that he is poor and needy yet claims to be the Lord’s servant. How can these things contrasting pairings be true? The prophet says, “the just shall live by faith” in the Lord’s promise of salvation (Habakkuk 2:4). To be a Christian is to trust in the Lord and not in myself. To be a Christian is to confess my sin and to receive the Lord’s forgiveness. To be a Christian is to believe that I am poor and needy in myself yet holy and righteous in Christ. The Christian faith believes in what God’s Word declares about myself and trusts in what God gives me in Christ. The just shall live by faith in the Lord Jesus and His suffering, death, and resurrection for our salvation. For this reason, David’s prayer of faith not only cries out to the Lord for forgiveness for his sin and deliverance from his enemies, but also rejoices in the myriad gifts of the Lord’s salvation. “Preserve my life...be merciful to me...You are good...Give ear to my prayer...You are great, and do wondrous things...Teach me Your way, O LORD...You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth...You Lord, have helped and comforted me.” Psalm 86 teaches us how to pray with boldness and confidence. Even though we are undeserving sinners, yet we are the objects and recipients of the Lord’s mercy and love.

## 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: Jesus Is the Bread of Salvation for the Nations

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 6:22-23

But now having been set free from sin,  
 and having become slaves of God,  
 you have your fruit to holiness, and the end,  
 everlasting life.  
 For the wages of sin is death,  
 but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 86 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, I am a poor and needy sinner, yet You declare me righteous and holy for Jesus’ sake. Give ear to my prayers. Deliver me from every enemy who attacks my faith. Teach me the ways of Your salvation that I may walk in Your truth. Comfort me with Your love and goodness that I may praise and glorify You with all my heart; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	30	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45
Evening	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47

### Bible Readings for the Week:

Bible Narrative		Second Reading
Trinity 7: Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9	Sunday	
Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me—Matthew 16:24-28	Monday	Isaiah 44:2-8
The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13	Tuesday	Isaiah 44:9-23
A Boy Is Healed—Matthew 17:14-21	Wednesday	Isaiah 44:24-28
Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection—Matthew 17:22-27	Thursday	Isaiah 45:1-13
Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven—Matthew 18:1-14	Friday	Isaiah 45:14-25
If Your Brother Sins—Matthew 18:15-22	Saturday	Isaiah 46:1-13

### The Catechism: The Creed—The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i>  I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,  and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,  who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;  not with gold or silver,  but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,</p>	First Grade +
<p>That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom  and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

**In Our Prayers this Week**

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Bryan Stoltenberg (7/25), Nathaniel Anderson (7/27), Amy and Luke Uttenreither (7/31).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Erik and Jennifer Krueger, (7/25), Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach (7/26),  
Jeremy and Nancy LaFore (7/31).

**Deliverance from pestilence, sedition, and rebellion.**

**The sick:** Roger Laubenstein, receiving treatment at home for a blood infection with cancer treatment on hold;  
Jeremy LaFore suffering with ALS; Kathy Federman with a concussion and broken wrists from a fall;  
Shirley Alvaro, sister-in-law of Mary Schneider recently diagnosed with cancer and receiving treatment;  
Harlan Petersen receiving treatment for prostate cancer;  
Hadley Schumacher, granddaughter of Rev. Steven Schumacher, who is seriously ill;  
Katie Fischer and her unborn baby; David Berger in serious condition recovering from the trauma of brain surgery;  
Jim Nitzsche recovering from a fractured pelvis; Jim Weber, receiving in-home care following a series of falls.

**In hospice care:** Kurt Scheler and Lois Verage.

**Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

*O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; 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**

**“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”**

**LSB 819**

<p><b><u>Looking forward to the Eighth Sunday after Trinity</u></b></p> <p><b>Hymns: 768, 645, 701, 635, 658, 655</b></p> <p><b>Jeremiah 23:16-29:</b> <i>Jeremiah's warning about “false shepherds” is a warning directed against the believer’s unbelieving nature. Our old Adam does not want to hear the call to repentance. He wants to hear the message that all is well and that God is pleased with him. The proper preaching of the Word of God always involves the crucifying of our flesh. Only then will we be able to receive the truly sweet and life-giving Words of the Gospel.</i></p> <p><b>Romans 8:12-17:</b> <i>Children are always learning, growing, and maturing as long as they are children. This is true of us even as the children of God. Just as children learn and grow even through their mistakes and failings, the same is true for us as the Children of God. Our status as “baptized Children of God” CANNOT be overstated. Our God PROMISES to be there for us as His children in the day to day struggle with sin. We learn from our struggles to rely upon His grace and Spirit rather than relying upon ourselves. The Apostle Paul catechizes us to rely upon what God has given to us in our Baptism: He has called us to faith in Christ; He has forgiven us all our sin; He has given us His Holy Spirit; He has declared us to be His Children; we have access to God through Christ Jesus. To be a “debtor” means that we owe our life to another. As Christians, we do not owe our lives to the sinful flesh, but we owe our lives to the Holy Spirit who has called us to faith by the Gospel. To “live according to the flesh” means that a Christian abandons the call of the Gospel and lives BY FAITH in the appetites of his flesh which he follows. The end of this is the death of faith and spiritual destruction. Instead, the Baptized Christian is a debtor to the Holy Spirit. We owe our lives and salvation to Him. By the Holy Spirit who constantly calls us to repentance and faith, confession of sins and absolution, we “put to death the deeds of the body” and we live. We live by the daily renewing power of the absolution of Christ. We live by returning to the Lord as dear children, daily crying out in the midst of our struggles, “Abba, Father!” We are the Children of God. We continue to grow and learn and have our faith strengthened by the ministry of the Spirit. Through the Word of Promise, the Holy Spirit continues to bear witness with our spirits that we are the children of God and heirs with Christ, even as we suffer under the daily assaults of sin.</i></p> <p><b>Matthew 7:15-23:</b> <i>Prophets are those who “speak forth the Word of God.” Therefore, a false prophet is one who claims to be speaking God’s Word but is actually speaking false doctrine. Jesus says that we will recognize false prophets by their fruits. What are the fruits of false prophets? False doctrine is the chief fruit of false prophets. False doctrine leads people away from sole reliance upon Christ to reliance upon themselves. Learning the truths of the Small Catechism is one of the chief ways by which the sheep learn to recognize a false prophet. Hearing and learning the basic truths of the Catechism guards us against the seductive lies of those who would divert our faith from the only Savior from sin, our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p>	<p><b>July 26, 2020</b></p>
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