

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
August 15 through August 22, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 120: A Prayer for Relief from Bitter Foes—Psalm 120 is a brief cry to the Lord for deliverance from those who oppose the faith of Christians with lies and deceit. “Lying lips” and “a deceitful tongue” is a reference to all false teachers who not only oppose the faith, but by their false doctrine lead people astray. The psalmist asks the question, “What shall be done to those who preach false doctrine?” In the end, the Lord will bring His judgment upon them. Meschech is outside the Promised Land in the southeast of Asia minor. It signifies a foreign land which does not know the Lord. Christians are on a pilgrimage through a world of unbelief and rejection of the truth. The tents of Kedar were black and inhabited by Arabians who did not worship the Lord. Like Meschech, dwelling among the tents of Kedar signifies how the Christian is in the world of unbelief and false doctrine, but not of the world. Under similar circumstances today, we call upon the Lord. Our lament parallels that of the psalmist, “My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace (the Gospel). I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.” This timely psalm is a prayer for the Church today in the midst of a world which is increasingly hostile to the Gospel. It is called a “Song of Ascent” because it was prayed after the burnt offering as the congregation entered into the presence of the Lord for the very help and deliverance for which the psalm prays.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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: God Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

**For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God, not of works,
lest anyone should boast.**

Psalm 120 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, most merciful Father, false teachers and enemies who are hostile to the Christian faith surround us. Keep us true to Your Word. Restore our strength. Deliver us from those who speak lying words and preserve us in the peace of Christ which overcomes the darkness of this present age; through the same 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	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112
Evening	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-14 St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord—Isaiah 61:7-11	
Monday	A Demon-Possessed Man Is Healed—Mark 5:1-20	Jeremiah 10:17-25
Tuesday	A Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed—Mark 5:21-43	Jeremiah 11:1-14
Wednesday	Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth—Mark 6:1-13	Jeremiah 11:18-23
Thursday	John the Baptist Is Beheaded—Mark 6:14-29	Jeremiah 12:1-4, 14-17
Friday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Mark 6:30-44	Jeremiah 13:15-27
Saturday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Mark 6:45-56	Jeremiah 14:11-22

The Catechism: Confession

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts.

First, that we confess our sins,

and second, that we receive absolution,

that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself,

not doubting,

but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Kindergarten +

<p><i>What sins should we confess?</i> Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>Which are these?</i> Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?</p>	Third Grade +

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

Prayer before Confession

Merciful Father, You promise us that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As I come before You for confession and absolution, teach me to consider my place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Work in me true contrition and repentance. Give me a desire to live a new life. Help me to know and confess my sin truthfully. As I receive my Savior's forgiveness, comfort my conscience, renew my life, strengthen my faith in Him, and restore to me the joy of Your salvation. All this I ask for the sake of my dear Lord Jesus Christ, who died for me and shed His blood for me upon the cross for the forgiveness of all my sins. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The Office of the Ministry: *The Lord's blessing upon Rev. Matthew Uttenreither and his family in his acceptance of the call to Ascension Lutheran Church in Niles, IL; the Lord's guidance and blessing on calling an ordained Headmaster/Associate Pastor.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Jan Finke (8/16), Sierra Fredrich (8/17), Brenda Greschner (8/18), Beth Bender, Mark Ruhbusch (8/20), Ashley Sawatzki, Wesley Giordano (8/21).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Jeff and Christine Dubnicka, Bob and Cheryl Piper (8/15), Bob and Doreen Corso (8/16), Barry and Maureen Wurster (8/20).*

The sick: *Kevin Kehres who is hospitalized; Luise Bollmeyer being treated at home for pneumonia; Rev. Jon Leider and Jim & Shirley Weber as they adapt to new challenges in their lives; John Hendricks, uncle of Nicola Giordano, hospitalized for testing; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.*

Cancer treatment: *Gabby Hartwig continuing treatment for childhood cancer; Tom Pinzl, Rev. Timothy Kinne, Erwin Cabrera, James Loker, Jim Nietzsche, Aburuyeba Amaso, in various stages of cancer treatment.*

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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

"Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ"

565

Looking forward to the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

August 22, 2021

Hymns: 512, 545, 551, 585, 587, 923

Isaiah 29:17-24; Romans 10:9-17; Mark 7:31-37

A man was brought to Jesus who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech (Mark 7:31-37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:9-17). Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus' mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:4-11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus' sighing "Ephphatha" opened the man's ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, "In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book" (Is 29:18-24). So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise. (LSB hymnal notes)