

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Feast of Pentecost

May 23 through May 30, 2021

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 118:15-29 — A Prayer of Confidence in the Lord’s Salvation – Rejoicing is characteristic of the Christian faith. Our boast is in the Lord Jesus and the certainty of salvation that He won for us. Jesus, the Son of God our Savior, is the Father’s “right-hand man” and He has secured salvation for us. He is also the LORD, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He is our righteousness. He is the Stone which the High Priest and Sanhedrin had rejected. He is the Cornerstone of the Church. He is our righteousness, and His righteousness is the gate through which we, the justified, enter into eternal fellowship with God. He is salvation. He is the LORD, and He is our God. His mercy endures forever. Because of what Christ has done we shall live, and death cannot destroy us. The day of His death and resurrection is the LORD’S doing. We will rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118, so central to the Passover Celebration in the Old Testament, was rightly applied to Jesus on Palm Sunday: “Save now (Hosanna)...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” He is the true Passover Lamb, the Sacrifice that was bound to the altar of the cross, and the High Priest whose blood establishes an eternal righteousness that covers all our sin! No wonder every day is a day of rejoicing, even in the midst of grief and sorrow. Christ is our salvation; therefore we have nothing to fear!

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: Through the Word We Have Fellowship with God

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

Psalm 118:15-29 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: We will praise You, O Lord Jesus, for You are our salvation and our righteousness. Enliven the praise of Your Church that every faithful Christian may confess Your holy name and sing of Your righteousness and mercy all the days of our life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68
Evening	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	If Anyone Loves Me He Will Keep My Word—John 14:23-31	
Monday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-15
Tuesday	Matthias is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26	Isaiah 52:7-10
Wednesday	The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13	Genesis 11:1-9
Thursday	Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21	Isaiah 43:5-13
Friday	Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36	Psalm 68:18-20, 32-35
Saturday	The Call of Isaiah—Isaiah 6:1-7	Romans 11:33-36

The Catechism: Table of Duties— To Widows; To Everyone

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the first through tenth commandments)

<p><i>What does God’s Word say to widows?</i> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.</p>	<p>Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:5</p>
<p>But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.</p>	<p>Fourth Grade + 1 Timothy 5:6</p>
<p><i>What does God’s Word say to everyone?</i> The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”</p>	<p>First Grade + Romans 13:9</p>
<p>I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1</p>

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

Prayer for Widows

Heavenly Father, comfort all widows who have lost their husbands and are left all alone. Give them strength and courage to put their hope in You and to cry out to You for help night and day. In their loneliness and sorrow, draw them closer to Your Divine Services and deliver them from the temptation to seek fulfillment from the pleasures of life that can never truly satisfy. Teach them to believe that they have a sacred calling as widows to live by faith in the greater Bridegroom, who has laid down His life for His bride and in whom alone are pleasures forevermore, 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.

Prayer for Widowers

Heavenly Father, comfort all widowers who have lost their wives and are left without a spouse to love. Deliver them from self-centeredness and despair. Give them the strength to flee from fornication and every form of sexual immorality. Fill the void in their lives with the Gospel of Your Son and the study of Your Word. Teach them to pray to You for help to live in their calling, to serve their neighbors in love, and to commend their future to Your gracious will. Grant them Your grace to remain single, or provide them with a faithful Christian wife; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Everyone

O Lord, as You have loved us in place of Yourself and thereby fulfilled all of God's Law on our behalf, teach us to walk by faith in Your love in all that we do, to live in love and self-sacrifice toward others in our callings, and to pray for everyone in need, seeking not our own glory but the welfare and salvation of our neighbor; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The Office of the Ministry: The Lord's guidance and blessing on calling an ordained Headmaster/Associate Pastor.

Baptismal Birthdays: Autumn Walentoski (5/23), Andrew Bender, John David (5/24), Cheryl Piper (5/28).

Wedding Anniversaries: Matthew and Betty Voss (5/26), Frank and Rosie Koplring, Jody and Becca Ligrow (5/28).

The sick: Rev. Jon Leider recovering from a stroke; Frank Koplring recovering from abdominal surgery; Luise Bollmeyer, recently hospitalized for respiratory issues and a leg infection; Barb Lavann, mother of Cheryl Gretzinger, recuperating from a second back surgery; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

Cancer treatment: Gabby Hartwig recovering from surgery for childhood cancer; Rev. Timothy Kinne for multiple myeloma; Erwin Cabrera and Tom Pinzl for bladder cancer; Jim Nitzsche for lung cancer; Fr. Wokoma's daughter, Aburuyeba Amaso, Jill Franklin for breast cancer; and Alison Witte.

Collect for the Feast of Pentecost

O God, on [the day of Pentecost] You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest" (stanza 1 and 6)

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Looking forward to the Feast of the Holy Trinity

May 30, 2021

Hymns: 942, 954, 822, 590, 874, 953

Isaiah 6:1-7: "I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." Isaiah made this confession of his own sin and unworthiness when he was called by the Lord to be a prophet. This confession should be made by every minister of the Word. If our call was based upon our worthiness, there would be no ministers. Isaiah's worthiness was in the Lord who had purged him of his sins so that he might preach the Word of God faithfully. Herein lies an important message: the minister is equipped to preach the Gospel when he himself is a hearer and believer in that Gospel. If he doesn't hear and believe it for himself, he will never be able to minister it to others. The Vision of Isaiah is appointed for Holy Trinity Sunday because of the vision of the angels of heaven who sing the Sanctus, Holy, Holy, Holy, around the throne of God. This song of the angels teaches us that life with and in the Blessed Trinity is opened to us through the ministry of the Word of God that proclaims forgiveness of sins to sinners.

Romans 11:33-36: Paul extols the richness of the grace and love of the Holy Trinity, which is beyond our capacity to fully grasp and understand. All glory belongs to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because of His great mercy and lovingkindness to us.

John 3:1-17: God is revealed to us in our Baptism where we are born again of water and the Holy Spirit. In our Baptism God gives us His strong name which proclaims to us who He is and all that He does for us. It is as if He were saying, "I am the one true God. I give you my Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; You belong to me. I have adopted you as my very own. I am the Father who created you. I am the Son who has redeemed you by My blood. I am the Holy Spirit who has called you to faith and sanctifies you through the blood of Christ. I am your God." The strong name of the Triune God is our protection throughout life. Let us call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. "Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity: let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us. O Lord, our Lord: how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (From the Introit for Holy Trinity)