

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Feast of the Holy Trinity
May 30 through June 6, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 119: Aleph and Beth — A Meditation Upon God’s Word — “The 119th psalm is a long psalm, containing prayers, comforts, instructions, and thanks in great number. It is chiefly written to make us excited about God’s Word. It praises God’s Word throughout and warns us against both the false teachers and against boredom and contempt for the Word. Therefore, it is primarily to be counted among the psalms of comfort. Its primary concern is that we have God’s Word in its purity and hear it gladly. From this concern, then, come powerful prayers, instructions, thanks, prophecies, worship of God, suffering, and all that pleases God and grieves the devil. But where one despises the Word and is satiated by it, there all these cease. For where the Word is not purely taught, there is truly an abundance of prayers, instructions, comforts, worship, suffering, and prophecies—but totally false and condemned! For it is then only service to the devil, who is thus impure with all his heretics.”—Martin Luther, *Praying the Psalms*.

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: Blessed Be the Holy Trinity

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 3:15-16

**Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Psalm 119: Aleph and Beth and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: *Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through 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	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85
Evening	69	72	74	77	79	81	83	86

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Appears to Nicodemus—John 3:1-17	
Monday	The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47	Isaiah 58:1-2, 6-9
Tuesday	Peter and John Heal the Lame Man—Acts 3:1-10	Joel 1:1-12
Wednesday	Peter Preaches in the Temple—Acts 3:11—4:4	Joel 1:13-20
Thursday	Peter and John Are Arrested—Acts 4:5-22	Joel 2:1-11
Friday	Peter and John Give Thanks for Being Persecuted—Acts 4:23-31	Joel 2:12-17
Saturday	Ananias and Sapphira Lie to the Holy Spirit—Acts 4:32—5:16	Joel 2:18-27

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part I and II

<p><i>What is Baptism?</i> Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.</p>	Third Grade +
<p><i>Which is that word of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:</p>	First Grade +
<p>“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Matt. 28:19]</p>	Kindergarten +

<p><i>What benefits does Baptism give?</i> It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.</p>	Third Grade +
<p><i>Which are these words and promises of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving for What Baptism Is

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the gift of Holy Baptism whereby we are made disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and given the gift of salvation. Teach us to believe that Baptism is not just plain water, but that it is the water included in Jesus’ command to baptize the nations and combined with God’s Word, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 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: Karl Stemke, Melody Ruhbusch (5/30), Olivia Volquardsen (5/31), Olivia Gehlbach, Glenn Bollmeyer (6/2), Mike Christopherson (6/3), Elijah Ligrow (6/4).

Wedding Anniversaries: Allan and Jeannine Gabel (5/30), Jon and Margaret Lundberg (5/31), Doug and Bonnie Westrich (6/1), Karl and Maria Stemke (6/4), Rev. Dustin and Staci Anderson (6/5).

The sick: Paul Schneider recovering from heart surgery; Rev. Jon Leider recovering from a stroke; Frank Koplring recovering from abdominal surgery; Luise Bollmeyer, recuperating after hospitalization; 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.

Those who mourn: *The family of Virginia Galbraith, Pat Rothe’s mother, who mourn her death.*

Collect for the Feast of the Holy Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

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Looking forward to the First Sunday after Trinity	June 6, 2021
Hymns: 936, 768, 919, 685, 632, 718	
<p>Genesis 15:1-6: <i>The proper understanding of saving faith is that faith receives what God says and trusts in it. “Abraham believed in the Lord, and He [the Lord] accounted it [the promise] to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Abraham believed in what the Lord said, and by that Word which Abraham received by faith, the Lord accounted Abraham righteous. In other words, the Word of Promise was Abraham’s righteousness because the Word of Promise delivered Christ to Abraham. The righteousness that was “accounted to Abraham” is the righteousness of Christ Himself. This righteousness is received and accounted to us by faith in the Gospel. Faith saves, not because it is a good work of the sinner, but because it believes in the promise of righteousness in the Gospel. All the promises of God to the patriarchs are ultimately fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ for unworthy and undeserving sinners.</i></p> <p>1 John 4:16-21: <i>The Apostle John teaches us that God’s nature is love. Unlike human loves which are corrupted by the self-centeredness of sin, God’s love is pure and self-giving. Its ultimate expression is in the Father’s giving of His only begotten Son to the death of the cross. Our faith as Christians clings to the love of God in Christ. It is a selfless and sacrificial love that moved the Father to give His Son and that moved the Son to willingly offer His life on our behalf. This love, received by faith in Christ’s sacrifice for us, casts out the fear of judgment because the full and free forgiveness of all sins is at the center of this love. It is impossible to remain in the love of God and at the same time hate our brother and hold his sins against him. “We love because He first loved us.” It is the reception of God’s love in the forgiveness of our sins that creates the miracle of love for the brother and, especially, for those who have sinned against us.</i></p> <p>Luke 16:19-31: <i>The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus raises these questions: “Who is your god? What do you worship? Is God’s judgment at death final? How does God warn me of the judgment of hell? What brings me to repentance?” The beggar was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man suffered in hell, gazing at Abraham and the beggar from afar. Each received what he believed in: the rich man received the comforts of this life and of his own achievements, which did not last, and the beggar received the comfort of God’s salvation through the faith of Abraham, which endures to eternal life. The judgment of death is final: “There is a great gulf fixed” between heaven and hell. Those in one place cannot pass to the other. Repentance to faith in Christ comes only through hearing the message of Moses and the prophets, who actually proclaim salvation for sinners through the death of the resurrected One—Jesus Christ, our Lord.</i></p>	