

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
July 4 through July 11, 2021*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 119: Kaph and Lamed—Meditations on the Word of God—**In the **Kaph** section of Psalm 119, we learn that our life, both spiritually and temporally, is dependent upon the Word of God. Our soul faints, our eyes fail, and we become like dried wineskins in smoke apart from the Word of God. It is the Word of God that revives life and gives hope. It is also by the Word of God that we are protected and rescued from the enemies that would destroy the soul. In this section, word, statutes, law, commandments, precepts, and the testimony of Your mouth are all references to God’s Word. **In the Lamed** section of Psalm 119, the theme of life and salvation through the Word continues. The Word of God stands firm as that by which all of creation is sustained and by which life and salvation comes to us. Apart from the Word of God and holding fast to the Word we perish. In this section, word, ordinances, law, precepts, testimonies, and commandment are the references to the Word of God.

## **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: The Office of the Ministry Gathers in Sinners**

### **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 119: Kaph and Lamed and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, my soul faints for Your salvation! My life is dependent upon Your Word! Revive my life! I am Yours, save me, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.**

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	148	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20
Evening	149, 150	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>Jesus Calls the Disciples to Be Fishers of Men—Luke 5:1-11</b>	
Monday	Paul and Silas Are Imprisoned at Philippi—Acts 16:16-34	Romans 8:1-11
Tuesday	Paul, the Roman Citizen, Leaves Philippi—Acts 16:35-40	Romans 8:12-18
Wednesday	Paul Preaches in the Synagogues at Thessalonica & Berea—Acts 17:1-15	Romans 8:18-25
Thursday	Paul Preaches in the Areopagus of Athens—Acts 17:16-34	Romans 8:26-31
Friday	The Ministry of Paul in Corinth—Acts 18:1-22	Romans 8:32-39
Saturday	Paul’s Third Missionary Journey Begins—Acts 18:23—19:10	Romans 9:1-13

### **The Catechism: the Office of the Keys**

<p><i>What is the Office of the Keys?</i> 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.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>Where is this written?</i> This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, <b>Receive the Holy Spirit.</b> <b>If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.</b> [John 20:22-23]</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>What do you believe according to these words?</i> 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.</p>	Third Grade +

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

O Lord Jesus, we give thanks to You that You have given to Your church on earth that special authority to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. Grant faithfulness to Your church and her ministers in preaching the Gospel and administering Your Sacraments. Deliver us from all impenitence and unbelief. Give us truly repentant hearts that, confessing our sins and fleeing to Your mercy, we might receive from You the full and free forgiveness of all our sins. By Your forgiveness, strengthen our faith in You and grant us to live in faithfulness and love toward others. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

**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**

**The Office of the Ministry:** The Lord's protection, strength, comfort, faithfulness, and blessing upon the called and ordained pastors of our congregation.

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Rosie Koplring (7/6), Anders Rhode (7/8), Mitchell Dubnicka, Gus Kütemeier (7/9).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Jon and Marty Bruss (7/10).

**Those who serve in the military:** Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Robert Haga (Marines); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Mark Meyle (Marines); David Uttenreither (Army).

**The sick:** Rev. Jon Leider hospitalized for treatment because of strokes; Kevin Kehres, hospitalized with pneumonia; Mary McMiller, recuperating from knee surgery; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

**Cancer treatment:** James Loker, friend of the congregation, diagnosed with liver cancer; Tom Pinzl recuperating from major bladder surgery; Gabby Hartwig continuing treatment for childhood cancer; Rev. Timothy Kinne, Erwin Cabrera, Jim Nitzsche, Aburuyeba Amaso, Jill Franklin, and Alison Witte in various stages of cancer treatment.

**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**

**"Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle"**

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**Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

**July 11, 2021**

**Hymns: 596, 562, 558, 563, 746, 865**

**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.