

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
July 18 through July 25, 2021*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 119: Samek and Ayin— Meditations on the Word of God—***Spiritual hypocrisy is to have a divided heart, a heart that is not firmly anchored in God’s Word but willfully follows the appetites and desires of the flesh. The **Samek** section of psalm 119 begins with a rejection of the “double-minded” or divided heart. For the Christian, God’s Word is the place of refuge and safety in the daily allure of the sinful flesh which would lead us astray. “You are my hiding place and shield...uphold me according to Your word, that I may live...Hold me up, and I shall be safe...” The Apostle declared that in his flesh there dwelt no good thing, therefore God’s Word alone is the source of safety, strength, comfort, and life for the faithful Christian. Only God’s Word can deliver us from the evil that lurks within us. In this section, law, word, commandments, statutes, testimonies, and judgments are the references to God’s Word. The **Ayin** section contains references to God’s righteousness. God’s righteousness ultimately centers in what Christ has done for our salvation in His death upon the cross. There He executed judgment and righteousness on our behalf as He suffered what the Law demanded for our sin. His righteousness is the source of our salvation, the mercy of God, and why the Lord’s commandments are more precious to us than fine gold. References to “the testimonies of the Lord” and His “righteous Word” are descriptions of the Gospel of the righteousness of God in Christ that covers our sin. In this section, righteous word, statutes, testimonies, law, commandments, and precepts are the references to God’s Word.*

## **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: Jesus is the Bread of Salvation for All the Nations**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles’ Creed**

#### **Verse: Romans 6:23**

**For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

#### **Psalm 119: Samek and Ayin and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** *O Lord Jesus, by Your Word strengthen my faith against the weaknesses of my flesh and deliver me from a divided heart. Hide me in Your righteousness. Cover all my sin. Strengthen my heart to live in holy fear of You and give me a love for Your Word above all things; 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	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

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

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9</b>	
Monday	Paul Preaches to the Mob—Acts 21:37—22:16	Romans 12:1-8
Tuesday	Paul Is Protected as a Roman Citizen—Acts 22:17-29	Romans 12:9-21
Wednesday	Paul Appears Before the Sanhedrin—Acts 22:30—23:10	Romans 13:1-7
Thursday	The Plot Against Paul—Acts 23:11-35 <b>St. Mary Magdalene—John 20:1-2, 10-18</b>	Romans 13:8-14
Friday	Paul Appears Before Felix the Governor—Acts 24:1-23	Romans 14:1-13
Saturday	Paul Appeals to Caesar—Acts 24:24—25:12	Romans 14:14-23

### **The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—What is the Sacrament of the Altar? What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?**

<i>What is Sacrament of the Altar?</i> It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.	First Grade +
<i>What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?</i> These words, “ <b>Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,</b> ” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.	First Grade +

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

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of the Altar**

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your own words You have instituted the Lord's Supper, teaching us to believe that it is Your true body and blood, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink. We give thanks to You for this precious gift. Give us true faith in Your words that we might receive Your body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation as You have promised. 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:** Mary & Elizabeth Bender (7/18); Talitha Schneider (7/20); Barry Wurster, Elias Giordano (7/23).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Jim & Karen Frerking (7/19); Pastor & Beth Bender, Mike & Laura Ferguson (7/21); Kerry & Cindy Welch (7/23).

**Thanksgiving for healing:** Jill Franklin and Alison Witte, whose cancer treatments have been effective.

**The sick:** Rev. Jon Leider continuing to be treated for the effects of strokes; Jim Weber in rehab; Kevin Kehres, in rehab recovering from pneumonia; Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.

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

**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.

**Collect for St. Mary Magdalene**

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, restored Mary Magdalene to health and called her to be the first witness of His resurrection. Heal us from all our infirmities and call us to know You in the power of Your Son's unending life; through the same Jesus 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**

**"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"**

**819**

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

**July 25, 2021**

**Hymns: 851, 745, 707, 725, 623, 577**

**Jeremiah 23:16-29:** 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.

**Romans 8:12-17:** 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.

**Matthew 7:15-23:** 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.