

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
July 25 through August 1, 2021

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 119: Pe and Tsadde—Meditations on the Word of God—The testimonies of the Lord and the comfort of His righteousness are themes of both the Pe and the Tsadde sections of Psalm 119. **In the Pe section**, the psalmist begins by the declaration “Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.” This is the language of faith in the Gospel of God’s love and salvation in Christ. The testimonies of the Lord are the promises of the Gospel. They are the declarations of forgiveness and righteousness in Christ. God’s Word can be a stern word of Law, but in this section the emphasis is upon the comfort of the Gospel. The Gospel gives light. It gives understanding to the simple. It directs our paths. It does not allow iniquity to rule over us. It is the word of redemption. By the Gospel, God’s face shines upon us and we are grieved by those who turn away from the Gospel in unbelief. In this section, testimonies, words, commandments, word, precepts, statutes, and law are the references to the Word of God. **In the Tsadde section**, the theme of righteousness intensifies: “Righteous are you.... Your testimonies ... are righteous.... Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness.... The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting...” These are not merely references to the holiness of the Lord, but of the righteousness of God in Christ. The righteousness of God is that He offered up His Son to the death of the cross on our behalf to make full atonement for all sin. This is the righteousness that is proclaimed in the Gospel and received by faith alone and not by the works of the Law. Sometimes “commandments” refer to the requirements of the Law, but commandments can also refer to the edicts of the Gospel that silences Satan’s accusations, takes away sin, and bestows the righteousness of Christ. These “commandments” are the eternal delight of the redeemed sinner. In this section, judgments, testimonies, words, word, precepts, law, and commandments are 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: Beware of False Prophets

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 7:15-16a

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing,
but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
You will know them by their fruits.

Psalm 119: Pe and Tsadde and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, in the Gospel of Your Son You declare to me the precious testimonies of all that You have done for me in Christ. Grant to me and to all my loved ones a fervent faith in Jesus that we might cling to His righteousness for comfort, strength, understanding, and peace; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
Evening	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Beware of False Prophets—Matthew 7:15-23 St. James the Elder, Apostle—Acts 11:27—12:5	
Monday	Paul Appears Before King Agrippa—Acts 26:1-11	Romans 15:1-6
Tuesday	Paul Begins His Testimony to King Agrippa—Acts 26:12-32	Romans 15:7-13
Wednesday	Paul’s Voyage to Rome Begins—Acts 27:1-12	Romans 15:14-21
Thursday	Paul’s Ship Is Caught in Violent Seas—Acts 27:13-38	Romans 15:22-33
Friday	Paul Is Shipwrecked on the Island of Malta—Acts 27:39—28:10	Romans 16:1-16
Saturday	Paul’s Ministry at Rome—Acts 28:11-31	Romans 16:17-27

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—First Petition

What is the First Petition? Hallowed be Thy name.	Preschool +
What does this mean? God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.	Second Grade +

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it.

Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven!

But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us.

Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

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

Prayer on the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, You hallow Your name among us when Your Word is taught in its truth and purity and when we, as Your dear children, also lead holy lives according to it. We give thanks to You for the gift of Your Word; for our pastors, parents, and others who teach it; and for the holy lives of all Your faithful Christians who live according to it. Forgive us for the many ways in which we profane Your holy name among us by failing to teach Your Word in its truth and purity, to pray for our pastors and teachers, or to lead holy lives. Protect us from false doctrine and evil living. Help all who are called to teach and preach Your Word to do so with faithfulness, and grant us to receive Your Word rightly that our lives may be made holy by it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

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

Baptismal Birthdays: *Bryan Stoltenberg, Carson Scalercio (7/25); Nathaniel Anderson (7/27); Amy Uttenreither, Luke Uttenreither (7/31).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Erik & Jennifer Krueger (7/25); Andrew & Olivia Gehlbach (7/26); Chuck & Janeen Hartwig (7/27); Keith & Cindy Kunkel, Jim & Dorothee Behling (7/30); Jeremy & Nancy LaFore (7/31).*

The sick: *Rev. Jon Leider, Jim Weber, and Kevin Kehres in rehab; 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 Nitzsche, Aburuyeba Amaso, in various stages of cancer treatment.*

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for St. James the Elder, Apostle

O gracious God, Your servant and apostle James was the first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour out upon the leaders of Your Church that spirit of self-denying service that they may forsake all false and passing allurements and follow Christ alone, 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

"Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

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Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 1, 2021

Hymns: 834, 730, 726, 716, 761, 731

2 Samuel 22:26-34: *This passage of Second Samuel records for us part of the text that Jesus used in teaching the parable of the Unjust Steward. It speaks of how the Lord Himself is more shrewd and clever than even the most shrewd and clever of men: "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; with the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down" (vs. 26-28).*

1 Corinthians 10:6-13: *St. Paul uses the example of Old Testament Israel to warn the Corinthian Christians against the danger of idolatry (false faith and worship) which evidences itself in sexual immorality, murmuring, and complaining against the Lord. The end of such idolatry is the loss of faith and eternal death. This warning against the danger of idolatry is intended to draw us to the One Man, Christ Jesus, who alone can deliver us from these dangers in the time of such temptation: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (vs. 12-13).*

Luke 16:1-13: *"The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly" (Luke 16:1-9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when the earthly fails. These are our escape in temptation (1 Cor. 10:6-13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam 22:26-34). —Excerpted from the LSB hymnal project*