

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Trinity
June 26 through July 3, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — This Week’s Bible Stories from St. Luke – At the beginning of Luke 10, the evangelist records Jesus’ **Sending out of the Seventy** and the instructions He gave them. They were to begin this ministry with prayer that the Lord would send out laborers into the harvest field. Even before they began their work, they were to understand that others would take over after them and that the ministry of the Gospel would expand throughout the life of the Church. He taught them total dependence upon Him and His Word, and that there would be a sacrificial character to their ministry as they would be treated like lambs among wolves seeking to devour them. Ultimately, the message of the Gospel is one of peace with God. The kingdom of God is near wherever the Gospel is preached. Those who receive the Gospel will provide for those from whom they received it. But for those who reject the Gospel in impenitence and unbelief, the judgment will be even more severe for them than it was for Sodom. The ultimate strength and comfort for Christ’s ministers is contained in Jesus’ promise: “He who hears you hears Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.” **The Seventy Return with Joy** and rejoice to be witnesses to the power of the Gospel to save and deliver sinners from the clutches of Satan. Jesus encourages His ministers and every Christian to find our ultimate joy in the promise that our names are written in heaven. Jesus Himself rejoices to reveal the mystery of God’s grace, not to the so-called wise and prudent, but to baptismal babes who have no standing in this world but who rejoice to know and receive His love. **The Parable of the Good Samaritan** teaches the nature of God’s grace as the Samaritan befriends a man who would have considered him to be his enemy. In the same way, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and paid whatever was necessary for our redemption. Our Lord brought us to the inn of His Church where we are cared for and nurtured back to health. In the account of **Mary and Martha**, the simplicity of being a disciple of Jesus is revealed in Mary who sits at Jesus’ feet to receive the “one thing needful”—Jesus’ Word of life, comfort, and peace. **St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles** is celebrated on Wednesday where Peter and Paul labor together at the Jerusalem Council to clearly set forth the doctrine of the justification of the sinner before God by faith in Christ alone apart from the works of the Law. This first controversy in the fledgling Church continued to be the fundamental issue that the Church would contend for throughout her history.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out 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: Come to the Feast, All Things Are Ready!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Revelation 19:9b

“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”

Psalm 18 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Morning | 119:89-112 | 119:137-152 | 122, 123 | 125, 126 | 128, 129 | 131, 132 | 135 | 137, 138 |
| Evening | 119:113-136 | 119:153-176 | 124 | 127 | 130 | 133, 134 | 136 | 139 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| Sunday | The Parable of the Great Feast—Luke 14:15-24 | |
| Monday | The Sending Out of the Seventy—Luke 10:1-16 | Zephaniah 3:1-7 |
| Tuesday | The Seventy Return with Joy—Luke 10:17-24 | Zephaniah 3:8-13 |
| Wednesday | St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles—Acts 15:1-21 | Galatians 2:1-10 |
| Thursday | The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37 | Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| Friday | Mary and Martha—Luke 10:38-42 | Habakkuk 1:1-11 |
| Saturday | The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56 | Isaiah 11:1-5 |

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer— Second Petition

What is the Second Petition?

Thy kingdom come.

Preschool +

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

First Grade +

How does God’s kingdom come?

God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Second Grade +

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

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Cheri' LaFore (6/26), Gabrielle Ligrow (6/27), Betsy Banasik (6/28), Elton Volquardsen, Jon Bruss (6/29), David Aumann, Florence Schmidt (6/30). Kerry Welch (7/1), Robin Theilacker (7/2).

Wedding Anniversaries: Brett and Kara Rhode (6/26), Chuck and Jan Finke (6/28),

Office of the Holy Ministry: Pastor Gehlbach's 35th anniversary of ordination (6/28).

The Sick: Marlene Schaefer hospitalized and recovering following a heart attack and stroke; Walter Schmudlach, Mark's father, recovering from a stroke; Jill Franklin continuing treatment after surgery; Jim Weber in rehab; John Paul Beine and Amy Bruss, in extended therapy; Barbara Wieting, starting chemotherapy; Josiah Boehringer & Todd Fredrich with cancer.

Hospice Care: Jim Zindl & Cliff Evans

Peace for the war in Ukraine

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles (June 29)

Merciful and eternal God, Your holy apostles Peter and Paul received grace and strength to lay down their lives for the sake of Your Son. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we may confess Your truth and at all times be ready to lay down our lives for Him who laid down His life for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for The Visitation (July 2)

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with 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

"A Multitude Comes from the East and the West"

510

Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Trinity

July 3, 2022

Hymns: 618, 608, 635, 609, 611, 814

Micah 7:18-20: The Triune God is the only true God, because He alone is the God of mercy and salvation by grace alone. Our life with Him is established only on the basis of His undeserved mercy, compassion, and loving-kindness toward us. "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy" (vs. 18).

1 Timothy 1:12-17: The Lord's salvation of Paul stands as a sign that God can save the worst of sinners. Paul clearly confesses that his office and apostleship was a gift of God's grace alone, that in Paul's ministry as an apostle, other sinners might come to know the overwhelming grace and salvation of God in Christ. Paul's conversion and reception of God's grace and salvation in Christ is a sign to all of us. If the Lord can rescue the likes of Saul of Tarsus who had persecuted the Church and fought so violently against the Gospel, then He can save any sinner from the condemnation of hell.

Luke 15:11-32: The Parable of the Prodigal Son is the third of the three parables Jesus told to address the Pharisees and scribes murmuring against Him that He received sinners and ate with them. Jesus' reception of sinners does not mean that He condones sin, but rather that forgiveness of sins is granted by God's grace alone to every broken and contrite sinner. The parables also address the question, "Is it possible for a Christian who has fallen into grievous sin to be restored to repentance?" The answer is a resounding "YES!" The lost sheep had belonged to the Shepherd before it went astray and then was sought after and found by the Good Shepherd. The coin was the cherished possession of the woman who lost it so that she dropped everything that she was doing to search for it until it was found. The prodigal son was the son of his father before he squandered his father's love and left home. In all three parables the love of God for His own is on display in how He searches out to reclaim those who had belonged to Him. In the account of the Prodigal Son, the young man not only wasted his inheritance in prodigal living, but in so doing he squandered the love of his father who had given him everything. Yet, when nothing would satisfy the deepest needs of his soul, it was the father's love that called the son home in repentance and faith. To illustrate that it is ultimately God's grace that reclaims us and gives us the courage to confess our sins, while the son is still a great way off the father runs to him, puts his arms around him, kisses him, and extends to him a father's heart of unconditional love. This is a vivid picture of what the Gospel is: God takes the initiative for our salvation; God sends His only Son to die for us apart from any merit or worthiness on our part; the Lord sends forth the Gospel to be preached to call us home to the Father. The father's heart of love for his son had not changed, even though the son had gone astray. This is the basis for our salvation in Christ. It is His greatest joy to restore His fallen children to repentance and faith. This is why there is such joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. This is why the father celebrates his son's return: he was restored to the family by the father's love and mercy. Not only that, but the father was also overjoyed that his son RECEIVED his love and believed it. The older son in the parable is representative of those self-righteous Pharisees and scribes who were murmuring against Jesus. The father went out to the older son and pleaded with him to come into the house and receive his brother in mercy, but the parable does not indicate what the older brother did. It is open ended. Will the self-righteous Pharisee repent of his self-righteousness and embrace the mercy of God, or will he remain hardened in heart?