

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Trinity
July 10 through July 17, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Church’s Ministry (Summer Stories from the Gospel of St. Luke) — The Augsburg Confession, Article V on the ministry, states that to obtain faith in Christ, He instituted the preaching office to give the Gospel and Sacraments through which the Holy Spirit works faith in the hearts of sinners. The Third Article explanation in the Small Catechism also highlights the ministry by confessing, “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts...in the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” This week’s readings from the Gospel of Luke highlight aspects of the Church’s ministry of Word and Sacrament. **The Faithful Servant** is that minister of the Gospel who, standing upon the confession of faith in Christ, faithfully preaches the Gospel and administers the Sacraments of Christ according to Jesus’ institution and for the saving benefit of sinners. **Christ Brings Division and Suffering** describes how the faithful preaching of the Gospel and confession of faith in Christ will also be accompanied by opposition and hatred directed against the Church and everyone who confesses the name of Jesus. But this suffering is a sign that we belong to Christ and carries with it the promise of eternal life with Him. **The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree** is an illustration of how the Lord is patient and long-suffering, desiring all to repent and believe the Gospel. **A Woman Is Healed on the Sabbath** teaches us that Jesus is the source of true Sabbath rest and that all who cling to the confession of faith in Jesus are the true sons of Abraham. **The Mustard Seed** teaches us that “Christ, planted in this world by the preaching of the Gospel, looks to be the most insignificant word in all the earth, yet He produces a mighty congregation of believers among whom the Holy Spirit dwells to give the shelter of His forgiveness and salvation to all who enter her.” **The Leaven** teaches us that “the Gospel spreads throughout the world and produces faith.”

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: Confess Your Trespasses to One Another that You May Be Healed.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Psalm 138 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30
Evening	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	“Be Merciful, as Your Father in Heaven”—Luke 6:36-42	
Monday	The Faithful Servant—Luke 12:35-48	Lamentations 1:18-22
Tuesday	Christ Brings Division and Suffering—Luke 12:49-59	Lamentations 2:5-8, 11-12
Wednesday	The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree—Luke 13:1-9	Lamentations 2:13-17
Thursday	A Woman Is Healed on the Sabbath—Luke 13:10-17	Lamentations 2:18-22
Friday	The Mustard Seed and the Leaven—Luke 13:18-35	Lamentations 3:1-18
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—1 Kings 19:11-21	1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer— The Fifth Petition

<p>What is the Fifth Petition? And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.</p>	Preschool +
<p>What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Fifth Petition

Heavenly Father, forgive us our trespasses. Do not look upon our sins or deny any of our prayers because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that You would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. Grant us Your forgiveness, so that we, too, will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Tim Fischer, Harold Kampin, Grace Kirk (7/11), Laura Ferguson, Kara Rhode (7/13), Meghan Krueger (7/14), Ryder Richards (7/16).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jon and Martha Bruss (7/10), Larry and Toni Garms (7/15).

Anniversary of Ordination: Rev. Peter Bender, 35th (7/12).

The Sick: Jeremy LaFore and Doug Pom recovering from surgery; Marlene Schaefer resting at home following a heart attack and stroke; Walter Schmudlach, Mark's father, recovering from a stroke; Jill Franklin continuing treatment after surgery; John Paul Beine and Amy Bruss, in extended therapy; Barbara Wieting and Josiah Boehringer in treatment for cancer.

Hospice Care: Cliff Evans, and Gale Grady (uncle of Kathy May).

Those Who Mourn: the family and friends of Todd Fredrich who died Friday.

Peace for the war in Ukraine

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through 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

"Lord, to You I Make Confession"

<p>Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Trinity</p> <p>Hymns: 688, 682, 826, 856, 730, 454</p> <p>I Kings 19:11-21: The prophet Elijah is shown by the Lord that the Lord's greatest power and glory will be demonstrated in the "still small voice" of His Word that preaches salvation to the poorest and lowliest sinner. So it is for us, in the time of faith, this earthly life, the Lord comes to us in His Word. Unlike Satan, He does not force Himself upon us in an oppressive and coercive way; He speaks to us, calling us to repentance and faith that He might bestow upon us the freedom of life with God through the forgiveness of all our sins.</p> <p>I Corinthians 1:18-25: "Christ crucified" is what the true Church of God and her ministers preach. This means that we believe in the God who became man and died for our sins. This means that we preach what is considered "foolish" and a "stumbling block" to the unbelieving world, namely, that salvation is a gift of God's grace alone through the death of His Son for all those who believe without distinction.</p> <p>Luke 5:1-11: By a great miracle, Jesus called four fishermen to be fishers of men in token that the Gospel must be preached to the four corners of the earth. Peter, on behalf of all ministers, rightly confessed "we have toiled ... and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your Word" we will preach the Gospel. This miraculous sign gave Peter a deep sense of his own sinfulness. The minister of the Gospel has no strength apart from the Word he is called to preach. But this Word is all-sufficient for the task at hand. "To obtain faith in Christ" the Lutheran reformers declared in the Augsburg Confession, "God instituted the preaching office to give the Gospel and Sacraments. Through these (the Gospel and Sacraments) the Holy Spirit works faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel." (Augsburg Confession, Art. V)</p>	<p>July 17, 2022</p>
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