

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifth Sunday after Trinity
July 17 through July 24, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Power and Blessing of the Lord’s Forgiving Grace—(This week’s Bible Stories from the Gospel of Luke) **A Man is Healed on the Sabbath** illustrates the true doctrine of Christian worship. The Sabbath, which means rest, is not about doing something for God to earn His favor, but receiving the rest, healing, salvation, and forgiveness that only He can give. Jesus’ healing on the Sabbath is exactly what He does in the Divine Service. **The Great Supper** teaches us that “the call of the Gospel to receive salvation in Christ is like an invitation which is rejected because people have ‘more important things to do.’ Those who are helpless and needy receive the invitation and believe the Gospel. Those who believe they have no need reject the invitation and are excluded from salvation.” **The Lost Sheep** teaches us that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save the lost sinner who was not worth saving. Jesus’ passion to save the single lost soul is illustrated in this parable in which a man does the unthinkable: He leaves the many to rescue the one. This work delights the Lord and all of heaven.” **The Lost Coin** follows the theme of the Lost Sheep and teaches us that “Jesus’ desire to save the lost sinner is like a woman who is possessed with an obsessive desire to find something she has lost, and not to rest until she does. The Lord and His angels have no greater joy than the salvation of a sinner.” **The Prodigal Son** is the third parable in this sequence and “teaches us about God, whose grace toward the fallen seems irresponsible and wasteful, and that all Christians live by the grace of God alone without any merit or worthiness in them.” Very simply, this parable teaches us that “The love of God in Christ calls prodigal Christians back to their baptism.” Friday celebrates the **Feast of St. Mary Magdalene**, a woman whose undying affection for Jesus was inspired out of the gift of salvation she had received from Jesus who delivered her from demonic affliction.

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: The Lord Calls Ministers to Preach His Word

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:5

For we do not preach ourselves,
but Christ Jesus the Lord,
and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.

Psalm 84 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, the congregation of Christians, among whom the Gospel is preached and the Holy Sacraments are administered to the baptized faithful, is the most lovely place of Your saving presence. Give us grace to ever dwell in Your house where You strengthen our faith, enliven our hope, and shield us from every enemy. Hear our prayers and teach us to rely with absolute confidence upon your gracious promises, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 30 | 32 | 33 | 35 | 37 | 40 | 42, 43 | 45 |
| Evening | 28, 29 | 31 | 34 | 36 | 38 | 39, 41 | 44 | 46, 47 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| Sunday | “I Will Make You Fishers of Men”—Luke 5:1-11 | |
| Monday | A Man with Dropsy Is Healed on the Sabbath—Luke 14:1-14 | Lamentations 3:19-33 |
| Tuesday | The Parable of the Great Supper—Luke 14:15-35 | Lamentations 3:55-66 |
| Wednesday | The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1-10 | Lamentations 5:1-9, 15-22 |
| Thursday | The Parable of the Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11-32 | Jeremiah 33:1-9 |
| Friday | St. Mary Magdalene —John 20:1-2, 10-18 | Proverbs 31:10-31 |
| Saturday | Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Exodus 20:1-17 | Romans 6:1-11 |

The Catechism: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

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.

First Grade +

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| <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, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [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, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

Prayer to Receive the Ministry of Your Pastors

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Office of the Holy Ministry. Give faithfulness to my pastors as they call me to repentance and faith in Your Son. Strengthen me to believe that when my pastors deal with me by Christ's divine command—whether they exclude 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

Baptismal Birthdays: Mary & Elizabeth Bender (7/18); Talitha Schneider (7/20); Barry Wurster, Elias Giordano (7/23).

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

Anniversary of Ordination: Rev. Robert E. Johnson, 50th (7/23).

The Sick: Marlene Schaefer 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 receiving chemotherapy; Josiah Boehringer with cancer.

Peace for the war in Ukraine

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Gale Grandy, uncle of Kathy May.

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.

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

"God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons"

682

Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July 24, 2022

Hymns: 564, 562, 581, 557, 609, 601

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.*