

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixth Sunday after Trinity
July 24 through July 31, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Faith in the Grace of God in Christ (This week's Bible Stories from the Gospel of Luke). Monday celebrates **St. James, the Elder**, who was the brother of John. James was the first of the Apostles to be martyred for his confession of faith in Christ. By the sufficiency of God's grace, he remained steadfast and faithful unto death. The narrative from Luke resumes on Tuesday. In the **Parable of the Unjust Steward** "the Lord Jesus is compared to an unethical man who alters the accounts of his master's creditors, so that their debt is reduced, and he is received by them into their home when the master casts him out. In the Lord's atonement for sin, He took the debt that we were responsible for paying and canceled it, so that we might receive Him for our eternal good. The axiom is true: it is beneficial to show mercy. This parable teaches that the unbeliever is often quicker than the believer to understand the potential benefits of showing mercy to others with one's material goods. Jesus commends this understanding." The **Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus** raises the questions: "Who is your god? What do you worship? Is God's judgment at death final? How does God warn me of the judgment of hell? What brings me to repentance and true faith? ... Each received what he believed in: the rich man received the comforts of this life and of his own achievements, which did not last, and the beggar received the comfort of God's salvation through the faith of Abraham, which endures to eternal life..." In **Faith as a Mustard Seed**, Jesus warns of the offense of works righteousness which destroys faith and extols the gift of saving faith in the Gospel of God's forgiveness. In the **Ten Lepers Are Cleansed** "Jesus shows that His grace and salvation is intended for all sinners, even those who would not return to Him in faith, and that fellowship with God is restored to us sinners only through the cleansing afforded us by Him who has fulfilled the Law's requirements on our behalf." (Excerpts from New Testament Catechesis in the Lutheran Catechesis Series).

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: Jesus Came to Fulfill the Law and the Prophets

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 3:21-22a

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed,
being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
even the righteousness of God which is through faith
in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe.

Psalm 28 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66
Evening	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Greater Righteousness—Matthew 5:17-26	
Monday	St. James the Elder—Acts 11:27—12:5	Mark 10:35-45
Tuesday	The Parable of the Unjust Steward—Luke 16:1-13	Jeremiah 33:10-18
Wednesday	The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus—Luke 16:14-31	Jeremiah 33:19-26
Thursday	Faith as a Mustard Seed—Luke 17:1-10	Haggai 2:5-9
Friday	The Ten Lepers Are Cleansed—Luke 17:11-19	Zech. 1:1-6, 12-17
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Genesis 2:7-17	Romans 6:19-23

The Catechism: The Creed— The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?
And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,</p>	First Grade +
<p>That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Second Article

Heavenly Father, You have given us Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, taking all of the punishment that we deserved for our sin upon Himself. He descended into hell, proclaiming His victory over the devil; and on the third day He rose again from the dead, preaching the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in His name to the whole world. We give thanks to You for all that Your Son has done for us. Help us to know and believe in Jesus. He has now ascended into heaven and sits at Your right hand as our Savior and Lord. All the enemies of sin, death, and hell have been placed under His feet and He now rules over all things for the sake of His Church. Give us fervent faith in Jesus and the blessed hope that He will come again to judge the living and the dead, giving the gift of eternal salvation to all who believe in Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: *Bryan Stoltenberg, Carson Scalercio, Michael Daleiden (7/25).*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Erik and Jennifer Krueger, Keith and Hannah Gierach (7/25); Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach (7/26); Chuck and Janeen Hartwig (7/27); Keith and Cindy Kunkel, Jim and Dorothee Behling (7/30).*

The Sick: *Barbara Wieting receiving chemotherapy; Josiah Boehringer and Linda Ongna (niece of Sharon Martin) with cancer.*

Those Who Mourn: *family and friends of Marlene Schaefer and Walter Schmuldach.*

Peace for the war in Ukraine

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; 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. 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

"Seek Where You May to Find a Way"

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Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday after Trinity	July 31, 2022
Hymns: 790, 819, 561, 652, 849, 774	
Genesis 2:7-17: <i>The prophet Moses teaches us that we were created by God from the dust of the earth. Our life comes from the Word of God. The Tree of Life gave life according to God's promise, but man chose to turn away from that tree and go his own way. This is the origin of all sin and death. Christ redeems us from the curse by being lifted up upon the tree of the cross.</i>	
Romans 6:19-23: <i>St. Paul teaches that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</i>	
Mark 8:1-9: <i>Jesus is the bread of life. In the miracle of the feeding of the 4,000, He shows Himself to be the Savior of all people and the source of all life and salvation. The numbers in this story are not insignificant. Numbers in the Bible have familiar usages. The number seven is often God's number of perfection and is often associated with the Holy Spirit, His seven-fold gifts of grace, and the Church which is formed from every tribe and nation of people. The number four is often associated with the earth, sometimes spoken of as having "four corners"—north, south, east, and west—from which all the people of Christ's Church will come. The number ten is often the number of God's providential completeness in His dealings upon this earth. He does just the right things in just the right ways, etc. The number three refers to the Holy Trinity, Holy Baptism, and the Baptismal character of our faith, that we were buried with Him who was raised the third day. Therefore, by the use of the number three and the number seven multiplied ten times over, this miracle teaches that Jesus is Lord, the Holy One of God, the perfect and only savior of sinner who has provided salvation to the four corners of the earth.</i>	