

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
July 31 through August 7, 2022

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —The Kingdom of Christ’s Righteousness** (This week’s Bible Stories from the Gospel of Luke) In the **Kingdom of God**, Jesus emphasizes themes we hear in the explanations to the Lord’s Prayer in the Small Catechism. The kingdom of God is about the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ. The kingdom of God is Christ and the salvation He came to bring. The kingdom of God is “in our midst” wherever Jesus’ Word and Sacraments are preached and administered, and wherever Jesus’ Church suffers under persecution. In the **Parable of the Persistent Widow**, we learn that “the Christian prays continually because he believes that God can be relied upon to deliver him from his enemies. Prayer flows from the faith that God is righteous toward us for Christ’s sake, and that He will vindicate us and right all wrongs at last. If a man who neither fears God nor respects any man will deliver you from an enemy because you continually bother him for his help, how much more shall God, who has called us in His Son, deliver us when we cry out to Him?” In the **Pharisee and the Tax Collector**, Jesus spoke to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others. It teaches us that ‘the highest worship [of God] in the Gospel is the desire to receive forgiveness of sins, grace, and righteousness.’” The ministry of Jesus was not all that different from the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, He called sinners to repentance for sin that they might receive His peace and salvation. The call to repentance is necessary, in order that we turn away from trusting in ourselves, our own righteousness and accomplishments, to trusting in the mercy of God in Christ. This call to repentance is always based upon our Savior’s love for us. We see this compassion and call to repentance in Jesus’ ministry to the **Rich Young Ruler**. The “one thing” this man lacked was Christ and His righteousness. In **Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus**, we hear the prayer of this repentant faith when Bartimaeus cries out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Though he was pushed away by others, Jesus received this poor blind beggar.

## 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 Feeds a Multitude of Sinners in the Wilderness of This World.**

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **John 6:51**

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven.  
If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;  
and the bread that I shall give is My flesh,  
which I shall give for the life of the world.”

**Psalm 47 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, 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	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84
Evening	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81	83

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9</b>	
Monday	The Kingdom of God—Luke 17:20-37	Zechariah 2:6-13
Tuesday	The Parable of the Persistent Widow—Luke 18:1-8	Zechariah 3:1-10
Wednesday	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-17	Zechariah 6:9-15
Thursday	The Rich Young Ruler—Luke 18:18-34	Zechariah 8:1-8
Friday	Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus—Luke 18:35-43	Zechariah 9:9-10
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Second Reading—Jeremiah 23:16-29	Acts 20:27-38

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?  
These words, “**Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,**”  
show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words.  
For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

First Grade +

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here:

**“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”**

These words,

along with the bodily eating and drinking,

are the main thing in the Sacrament.

Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Second Grade +

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

#### **Prayer Before Receiving the Lord’s Supper**

*Lord God, heavenly Father, I come to the altar at Your invitation to receive the holy body and the precious blood of my Savior Jesus Christ. I confess to You all my sins. I am heartily sorry for them. For Jesus’ sake, I forgive my enemies and all who have sinned against me. I believe that You give me the forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life and salvation through the body and blood of my Savior. Through the Lord’s Supper strengthen my faith in Christ, increase my love for others, grant me faithfulness in my vocation, and give me the joyous hope and confidence of eternal life and salvation in 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:** Wyatt Thoni (8/2), Julie Goltermann, Polly Joubert (8/3), David Hardenbrook, Keith Kunkel (8/4), Ted Dhein (8/5), Anna Steinhilb (8/6).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Jeremy and Nancy LaFore (7/31), Scott and Chantel Perry (8/1), Tom and Donna Aufdemberge (8/4), Dave and Christine Hardenbrook (8/5).

**The Sick:** Rev. DuWayne Schneider (friend of the Koplings) seriously ill and hospitalized in ICU; Roger Moritz (friend of Eunice Disson) recovering from a pulmonary embolism; Barbara Wieting receiving chemotherapy; Josiah Boehringer and Linda Ongna (niece of Sharon Martin) with cancer.

**Peace for the war in Ukraine**

#### **Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

*O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through 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**

#### **“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”**

619

#### **Looking forward to the Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

August 7, 2022

**Hymns: 578, 647, 602, 586, 585, 689**

**Jeremiah 23:16-29:** Jeremiah's warning about “false shepherds” is a warning directed against the believer’s unbelieving nature. Our old Adam does not want to hear the call to repentance. He wants to hear the message that all is well and that God is pleased with him. The proper preaching of the Word of God always involves the crucifying of our flesh. Only then will we be able to receive the truly sweet and life-giving Words of the Gospel.

**Acts 20:27-38:** The Apostle Paul meets with the pastors of the congregations of Ephesus for what he believes might be the last time he sees them upon this earth. He had been the missionary and evangelist who had brought the Gospel to them. He had been their chief teacher of the faith and had sent others to them to help in the training of pastors so that their congregations would be well cared for. Now Paul bids them farewell. He speaks to them about the nature of the Church in this world. It will always be the church militant, struggling with sin, misbelief, and false doctrine from within and without. Enemies of the faith will attack them. In Paul’s final word to the Ephesian pastors, he directs them to the only thing that will give them safety: “The Word of God’s grace.” What is the “Word of Grace”? It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul is encouraging them, never to grow tired of preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins is that which occurs again and again and again. Everyone needs this preaching of the “Word of grace” because it turns us away from self-reliance to reliance upon Christ Jesus and His death for our sins. The only safety for the church in the midst of attacks upon her faith is in this Gospel.

**Matthew 7:15-23:** Prophets are those who “speak forth the Word of God.” Therefore, a false prophet is one who claims to be speaking God’s Word but is actually speaking false doctrine. Jesus says that we will recognize false prophets by their fruits. What are the fruits of false prophets? False doctrine is the chief fruit of false prophets. False doctrine leads people away from sole reliance upon Christ to reliance upon themselves. Learning the truths of the Small Catechism is one of the chief ways by which the sheep learn to recognize a false prophet. Hearing and learning the basic truths of the Catechism guards us against the seductive lies of those who would divert our faith from the only Savior from sin, our Lord Jesus Christ.