

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Feast of the Holy Trinity
June 4 through June 11, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Jesus’ Call, the Beatitudes, and His Teaching on Righteousness—Our walk through the Gospel of Matthew continues with **Jesus’ Ministry and the Call of the Fishermen** to be “fishers of men.” These men were called from their livelihood as fishers to be in fulltime ministry as Jesus’ Apostles. In Jesus’ ministry they observed the power of the divine Word that they were called to preach. Throughout their three years with Jesus, they would learn dependence upon Him. The Sermon on the Mount begins with **The Beatitudes** which are first a description of Jesus Himself, who is poor in spirit, meek, and merciful, and then a description of what we share in through faith in Him. Faith in Christ is poor in spirit, contrite, meek, merciful, pure in heart, and hungers and thirsts for righteousness. The promise of faith in Christ is that the kingdom of heaven is ours, we shall be comforted, and we shall be filled with righteousness. Every blessing of the Beatitudes is ours through faith in Christ. **Christ’s Righteousness Fulfills the Law** teaches us that every jot and tittle of the Law is fulfilled by Jesus. He is without sin, and He dies upon the cross to fulfill the Law’s demands for us. This is the righteousness that is “greater than the Scribes and Pharisees” and it is received by faith alone. To counter all notions of pharisaical self-righteousness, Jesus expounds upon **You Shall Not Murder, You Shall Not Commit Adultery, and You Shall Not Give False Testimony** by teaching us that violation of the Law involves more than the outward act of murder, adultery, or lying. It also involves the heart. Hatred is murder. Lust is adultery. And every deceptive misleading word is of the Evil One. Jesus’ righteousness, received by faith, covers our sin and brings forth the blessed fruits that are described in the Beatitudes.

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: Blessed Be the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 3:5

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Psalms 29 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, the Creator and Savior of the world, who has made Yourself known in the work of man’s redemption as the mystery of the ever adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One and One in Three, we beseech You, reveal in us the full power of this faith, into which we have been planted by Baptism, that, being born of water and of the Spirit, we may by a life of holiness be formed into Your image here and rise to Your blissful presence hereafter, there to join, with the song of the seraphim, in praising You, forever and ever. Amen.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 42, 43 | 45 | 48, 49 | 51 | 54, 56 | 59 | 60, 61 | 65 |
| Evening | 44 | 46, 47 | 50 | 52, 53 | 55 | 57, 58 | 62 | 63, 64 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| Sunday | The Holy Trinity: John 3:1-17 | |
| Monday | Jesus’ Ministry and the Call of the Fishermen—Matthew 4:12-25 | Isaiah 4:2-6 |
| Tuesday | The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes—Matthew 5:1-12 | Isaiah 5:1-7 |
| Wednesday | Christ’s Righteousness Fulfills the Law—Matthew 5:13-20 | Isaiah 6:1-13 |
| Thursday | You Shall Not Murder—Matthew 5:21-26 | Isaiah 7:10-16 |
| Friday | You Shall Not Commit Adultery—Matthew 5:27-32 | Isaiah 8:11-20 |
| Saturday | You Shall Not Give False Testimony—Matthew 5:33-37 | Isaiah 9:2-7 |

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Parts I and II

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| What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word. | Third Grade + |
| Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: | First Grade + |

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| <p>“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Matt. 28:19]</p> | Kindergarten + |
| <p><i>What benefits does Baptism give?</i> It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.</p> | Third Grade + |
| <p><i>Which are these words and promises of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]</p> | Second Grade + |

Prayers: The Collect for the Week and In Our Prayers this Week

Collect for the Feast of the Holy Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord’s Prayer)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Elijah Ligrow (6/4), Pat Rothe (6/7), Marty Bruss (6/8), Jennifer Gretzinger (4/9).

Wedding Anniversaries: Karl and Maria Stemke, Lee and Eunice Neujahr (6/4), Pete and Brenda Greschner (6/6), Tyler and Rachel Haga (6/8).

Thanksgiving for Healing: Frank Koplmg, Karen (mother of Peggy Lundberg), and Mike Ferguson.

The Sick: Donna Aufdemberge with ongoing health issues; Don Fell in rehab; Beth (niece and goddaughter of Donna Lovas) recovering from colon surgery; Walt Dissen in rehab with long road to recovery; David Berger home with ongoing medical evaluation and treatment; Mark Gretzinger undergoing medical testing for undiagnosed illness; Kathleen Hetzel, Tanya Knoblock, Dennis Michaelis, Gabby Hartwig, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, and Heather Peters in cancer treatment.

Those Who Mourn: family of Evan Lewis who mourn his death.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

“I Bind unto Myself Today”

604

Looking forward to the First Sunday after Trinity

June 11, 2023

Hymns: 797, 768, 700, 640, 842, 675

Genesis 15:1-6: The proper understanding of saving faith is that faith receives what God says and trusts in it. “Abraham believed in the Lord, and He [the Lord] accounted it [the promise] to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Abraham believed in what the Lord said, and by that Word which Abraham received by faith, the Lord accounted Abraham righteous. In other words, the Word of Promise was Abraham’s righteousness because the Word of Promise delivered Christ to Abraham. The righteousness that was “accounted to Abraham” is the righteousness of Christ Himself. This righteousness is received and accounted to us by faith in the Gospel. Faith saves, not because it is a good work of the sinner, but because it believes in the promise of righteousness in the Gospel. All the promises of God to the patriarchs are ultimately fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ for unworthy and undeserving sinners.

1 John 4:16-21: The Apostle John teaches us that God’s nature is love. Unlike human loves which are corrupted by the self-centeredness of sin, God’s love is pure and self-giving. Its ultimate expression is in the Father’s giving of His only begotten Son to the death of the cross. Our faith as Christians clings to the love of God in Christ. It is a selfless and sacrificial love that moved the Father to give His Son and that moved the Son to willingly offer His life on our behalf. This love, received by faith in Christ’s sacrifice for us, casts out the fear of judgment because the full and free forgiveness of all sins is at the center of this love. It is impossible to remain in the love of God and at the same time hate our brother and hold his sins against him. “We love because He first loved us.” It is the reception of God’s love in the forgiveness of our sins that creates the miracle of love for the brother and, especially, for those who have sinned against us.

Luke 16:19-31: The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus raises these 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?” The beggar was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man suffered in hell, gazing at Abraham and the beggar from afar. 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. The judgment of death is final: “There is a great gulf fixed” between heaven and hell. Those in one place cannot pass to the other. Repentance to faith in Christ comes only through hearing the message of Moses and the prophets, who actually proclaim salvation for sinners through the death of the resurrected One—Jesus Christ, our Lord.