

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Third Sunday after Trinity
June 25 through July 2, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Jesus' Pastoral Care and the Ministry—The ministry of the Gospel and Sacraments is about Jesus coming to us with His Word and Spirit both personally and corporately. When the disciples questioned Jesus about fasting, He spoke to them about how He was the bridegroom sent from heaven and by the “new Gospel” of His love there is cause for great rejoicing by those who follow Him. In a **Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed** the personal character of Jesus' ministry is revealed. The woman's flow of blood was dried up by the touch of His garment. Similarly, by the ordinary earthly elements of water, bread, and wine Jesus comes with healing to each of us. Jesus' raising of the little girl not only indicates His power over death, but also His love in the comfort He brought to the little girl's family as they were reunited in life. **Two Blind Men Are Healed** shows us the confession of faith in Jesus that every Christian has. They were beggars. They had nothing and were totally dependent upon Christ. He was the object of their faith, and His mercy delivered them. This personal ministry for sinners in need of God's grace is seen in the **Sending Out of the Twelve** who, by Jesus' authority, are called to demonstrate His compassion for those who are “like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus the Good Shepherd provides His under-shepherds to care for all the sheep of His flock. This faithful pastoral care carries with it the **Promise of Persecution** as ministers go out on His behalf. They are called to depend upon the Lord's provisions alone, and when they suffer persecution, they testify to Him whose persecution brought about the salvation of those to whom they preach. **Confessing Christ Before Men** carries the comforting promise that Jesus will confess us before His Father who is in heaven. When **John the Baptist Sends Disciples to Jesus** for comfort and assurance that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus directs them to His saving ministry of Word and deed whereby He fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus' ministry is also celebrated this week in the Feast of **St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles**. By the Gospel of Jesus, these two sinners were made faithful apostles of Christ, proclaiming His forgiving grace to individuals and congregations alike.

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 Father Calls His Prodigal Children Home!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Psalms 103:1-13 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty and everlasting God, of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ, You have granted us forgiveness of sin and all things pertaining to life and godliness. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may so rule our hearts that we, being ever mindful of Your fatherly mercy, may serve You in holiness and pureness of living and may give you continual thanks for all Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109	112, 113
Evening	97	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 3: The Parable of the Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11-32	
Monday	A Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed—Matthew 9:14-26	Isaiah 23:6-14
Tuesday	Two Blind Men Are Healed—Matthew 9:27-34	Isaiah 24:14-23
Wednesday	The Sending Out of the Twelve—Matthew 9:35—10:15	Isaiah 25:1-5
Thursday	The Promise of Persecution—Matthew 10:16-31	Isaiah 25:6-9
	St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles: Acts 15:1-12	
Friday	Confessing Christ Before Men—Matthew 10:32—11:1	Isaiah 26:1-9, 12-13
Saturday	John the Baptist Sends Disciples to Jesus—Matthew 11:2-19	Isaiah 27:2-6

The Catechism: Christian Questions with Their Answers (Questions 15-16)

What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us:

This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins.

Only Christ, true God and man, could do that.

Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious.

Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

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

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles (June 29)

Merciful and eternal God, Your holy apostles Peter and Paul received grace and strength to lay down their lives for the sake of Your Son. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we may confess Your truth and at all times be ready to lay down our lives for Him who laid down His life for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Cheri LaFore (6/26), Gabrielle Ligrow (6/27), Betsy Banasik (6/28), Elton Volquardsen, Jon Bruss (6/29), Dave Aumann, Florence Schmidt (6/30) Kerry Welch (7/1).

Wedding Anniversaries: Brett and Kara Rhode (6/26), Chuck and Jan Finke (6/28).

Wedding: David & Ravyn Uttenreither united in marriage on June 23.

Anniversary of Ordination: Rev. Gary Gehlbach (6/28).

The Sick: Wally Schneider and David Berger recovering from surgery; Jon Bruss recovering from cardiac procedure; Andy Helwig awaiting liver transplant; Walt Disen in rehab; Mark Gretzinger suffering with chronic pain;

Those in Cancer Treatment: Cheryl Wallace (daughter of Larry and Sharon Martin) undergoing tests for melanoma; Rev. Dr. John Wille, Kathleen Hetzel, Tanya Knoblock, Dennis Michaelis, Gabby Hartwig, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, Donna Lovas's niece Beth, and Heather Peters.

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

Hymn of the Week

"Lord, to You I Make Confession"

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Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

July 2, 2023

Hymns: 719, 696, 760, 843, 932, 623, 766

Genesis 50:15-21: Joseph, who forgave his brothers, stands as an icon to us of Christ. In the death of Jesus, the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh meant evil against Him but God meant it for good, to save many people alive as it is this day. All of the "wicked and evil things" that happen in the lives of Christians still bear the stamp of God's approval, not because He delights in evil, but to turn evil into our eternal good. Joseph is an icon of Christ because he endured all manner of wickedness at the hands of his brothers which God used to bring about their repentance and salvation.

Romans 12:14-21: The Gospel is radical: it proclaims forgiveness and mercy from God to sinners as a free gift of His grace in Christ Jesus. On account of Jesus' death, God freely forgives. Faith in this Gospel is equally radical: it results in a similar disposition of love and mercy to other sinners as God has shown to us. Faith lets God be God and commends even our enemies to Him that they might be saved. Faith suffers persecution and faith bears the afflictions of others, and faith does it all willingly for Jesus' sake. For this reason, Paul says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

Luke 6:36-42: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (vs. 36). "Jesus is not speaking here of the kind of mercy that human reason commends and suggests to us. This is a mercy which is selfish and self-seeking, which gives to those who are important and learned, to those who have earned it and merited it, to those whom it loves or who are beautiful, to those from whom it can expect some benefit or advantage. This is a particular, beggarly, tattered and tousel mercy. For if I give to him who has earned it, or if I consider beauty or friendship, I am only performing a duty or paying a debt and not carrying out an act of mercy at all... The mercy of Christians does not seek its own advantage or repayment of any kind. It ... [is] always extended in all directions. We ... open our eyes and keep them fixed on all men alike, on friend and foe, and [are] merciful, even as our heavenly Father is merciful." - Martin Luther