

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Sixth Sunday after Trinity
July 16 through July 23, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Jesus Is the Great “I AM”—The Christ, the Son of the Living God—This week’s Bible narratives from the Gospel according to St. Matthew show forth the divinity of Jesus. The confession of the Church is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. As **Jesus Walks on the Water**, the disciples are afraid and think that He is a ghost. Jesus reply is poorly translated in most English Bibles. Instead of the typical translation, “It is I” Jesus actually said, “I AM”—the name God gave Moses at the burning bush. Jesus demonstrated that He is the Son of God, the great “I AM” not only with His words, but also by the miracle of walking on the water. In this miracle, the raging seas are under His feet proclaiming Him the Lord and Savior from divine judgment, sin, and death. In **Out of Man’s Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts**, Jesus teaches us the all-pervasive nature of the corruption of sin we inherited from Adam. In a **Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus’ Word**, we see the miracle of faith that the Word of the Gospel produced in a Gentile woman whose daughter was demon-possessed. Though her experiences spoke against her with the false message that Jesus was not for her and that He did not care, she held fast to the promise of the Gospel spoken to Abraham, namely that Abraham’s Seed was the Savior of all nations. Jesus commends her faith because her faith was exclusively in Him and the promise of salvation in Jesus’ name. In the **Feeding of the 4,000**, the second of Jesus’ great feeding miracles, we again see that Jesus is the bread of life, but not for the Jews only (the feeding of the 5,000), but also for all nations (the feeding of the 4,000). In this miracle it is the third day (an allusion to the resurrection). There are seven loaves (the number for the Lord and the seven nations that had surrounded Israel). The number 4 is associated with “the four-winds” or “the four corners” of the earth, signifying that the Gospel will go out into all the world to draw all sinners to the feast of salvation. In the **Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign**, Jesus warns the disciples concerning their “works-righteous doctrine” and lays out for us that the only “sign” that will be given to prove that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the sign of Jonah, namely, Jesus’ death and resurrection. In the **Confession of Peter and His Rebuke**, we learn that the confession that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God” is not only the foundation of the Church’s confession, but it is also why Peter is rebuked by Jesus when He denies that Jesus’ suffering and death is at the center of that confession.

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: Christ’s Righteousness Is Our Salvation!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 6:6-7

Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Psalms 19 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord Jesus, You are the Sun of righteousness with healing in Your wings. Enlighten our darkened understanding by Your holy Word. Enkindle our hearts and mold our wills to walk in faith, love, and hope every day of our lives. Let the light of Your Gospel shine to the nations that sit in darkness and preserve Your Church to the day of Your glorious coming to judge the living and the dead, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 144 | 147 | 148 | 1, 2 | 5 | 8, 9 | 10 | 14, 15 |
| Evening | 145 | 146 | 149, 150 | 3 | 4, 6 | 7 | 11, 12 | 13 |

Bible Readings for the Week:

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Sunday | Trinity 6: Christ Fulfills the Law—Matthew 5:17-26 | |
| Monday | Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36 | Isaiah 39:1-8 |
| Tuesday | Out of Man’s Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20 | Isaiah 40:1-11 |
| Wednesday | A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus’ Word—Matthew 15:21-31 | Isaiah 40:25-31 |
| Thursday | The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39 | Isaiah 41:8-20 |
| Friday | The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12 | Isaiah 42:1-13 |
| Saturday | The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23 | Isaiah 43:1-13 |
| | St. Mary Magdalene: John 20:1-2, 10-18 | |

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism— Part IV

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <p><i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.</p> | Third Grade + |
| <p><i>Where is this written?</i> St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:</p> | First Grade + |
| <p>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that,</p> | Kindergarten + |
| <p>just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]</p> | Second Grade + |

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

Prayer to Live in Daily Contrition and Repentance

Heavenly Father, through Your Word and Spirit, You call us to daily contrition and repentance for our sin that the Old Adam in us might be drowned and die with all his sins and evil desires. Work true repentance in our hearts every day. Teach us to confess our sins and to flee to Christ for our life and salvation. By Your Word of forgiveness raise up the new man of faith in us that we might live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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. 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.

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Ryder Richards, Silas Christiansen (7/16), Mary and Elizabeth Bender (7/18), Talitha Schneider (7/20).

Wedding Anniversaries: Bob and Amy Gierach (7/16), Jim and Karen Frerking (7/19), Rev. Peter and Beth Bender, Mike and Laura Ferguson (7/21).

Wedding: Patrick Meyer (grandson of Cheri` LaFore) and Sierra Ebert united in marriage on July 15.

Thanksgiving for successful recovery: Chuck Finke from knee surgery; Heather Peters from cancer treatment.

The Sick: Gabby Hartwig having surgery on July 17; Cheryl Wallace (daughter of Larry and Sharon Martin) having surgery for malignant melanoma on July 20; Walt Dissen, Wally Schneider, David Berger recovering from surgery; Andy Helwig recovering after liver transplant; Donna Aufdemberge dealing with health issues.

Those in Cancer Treatment: Rev. Dr. John Wille, Kathleen Hetzel, Tanya Knoblock, Dennis Michaelis, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, and Donna Lovas's niece Beth.

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

Hymn of the Week

“All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall”

562

Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 23, 2023

Hymns: 790, 819, 652, 566, 559, 849

Genesis 2:7-17: *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.*

Romans 6:19-23: *St. Paul teaches that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Mark 8:1-9: *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.*