

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Feast of the Holy Trinity
May 26, 2024, through June 2, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Table of Duties: To Widows and To Everyone—The last section of the Table of Duties summarizes Christian vocation: that every Christian is to live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20). It is our common faith in Christ and the grace of God—His undeserved and unmerited love—that unites us in love for one another. Just as Christ loved us, though we did not deserve it and had done nothing to earn His favor, even so we are called by the Gospel to live in love for one another and especially for those who do not deserve such love. The Apostle John wrote, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loves us, we also ought to love one another. . . . And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:7-11, 16). It is this love of God to which we are called by the Gospel, and it is this love of God which is the source of strength to live faithfully in our vocation. The source of true fulfillment is not in living for oneself, but in giving of ourselves to one another out of our love for Christ. [Reprinted from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Theme: Blessed Be the Holy Trinity!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

Psalm 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	30	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45
Evening	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Appears to Nicodemus—John 3:1-17	
Monday	The Choosing of the Seven—Acts 6:1-7	Joel 3:1-11
Tuesday	Stephen Is Accused of Blasphemy—Acts 6:8—7:16	Joel 3:12-21
Wednesday	Stephen Bears Witness Before the Sanhedrin—Acts 7:17-36	Jonah 1:1-16
Thursday	The Martyrdom of Stephen—Acts 7:37-60	Jonah 1:17—2:10
Friday	The Ministry of Philip—Acts 8:1-13	Jonah 3:1-10
Saturday	The Sin of Simon the Sorcerer—Acts 8:14-25	Jonah 4:1-11

The Catechism: Table of Duties — To Widows; To Everyone

(Preschool children and everyone, review the primary texts of the First Commandment through the Conclusion)

What does God’s Word say to widows? The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:5
But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.	Fourth Grade + 1 Timothy 5:6
What does God’s Word say to everyone? The commandments . . . are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”	First Grade + Romans 13:9
I urge . . . that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal Anniversaries: Lydia Christiansen (5/26), Cheryl Piper (5/28), Melody Ruhbusch, Karl Stenke (5/30), Olivia Volquardsen (5/31).

Wedding Anniversaries: Matthew and Betty Voss (5/26), Frank and Rosie Koplring, Jody and Rebecca Ligrow (5/28), Jon and Peggy Lundberg (5/31), Doug and Bonnie Westrich (6/1).

The Sick: Jim Cardo recently diagnosed with stage 3 prostate cancer; Rick Schuerman (friend of Paul & Sue Kachelmeyer), Bruce Fehr, Bill Spilger, Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig for cancer.

Those in Hospice: Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother-Nicola Giordano)

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

Hymn of the Week

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” (stanzas 1 and 4)

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Looking forward to the First Sunday after Trinity

June 2, 2024

Hymns: 728, 768, 352, 851, 708, 718

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.