

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the First Sunday after Trinity
June 2, 2024, through June 9, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Summer Readings from the Book of Acts and Romans—The preaching of the Gospel, catechesis, and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism characterize the spread of the Gospel and the ministry of the Church in the book of Acts. Philip is one of the seven ministers ordained by the Apostles to expand this ministry among Greek speaking Jewish Christians and others. Philip had an extensive ministry. He catechized new converts in Samaria and called Simon the Sorcerer to repentance. A eunuch, who was the treasurer to Queen Candace from Ethiopia, is catechized by Philip from the book of Isaiah to know that in Jesus' suffering and death Jesus fulfilled the description of the suffering servant from the Old Testament. Immediately upon confessing his faith that Jesus is the Christ, Philip baptized the eunuch. Chapter 9 details the circumstances of Saul's conversion. The Lord Jesus confronted him on the road to the city of Damascus with letters in hand from the High Priest to arrest and persecute Christians. "Why are you persecuting Me," Jesus asked. Saul was struck blind as a sign of his self-righteous impenitence. The disciple Ananias was sent to him in Damascus to further instruct him and to baptize him. The foremost persecutor of Christians would become the foremost Apostle, preaching the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and testifying to Christ before kings and civil rulers. Saul would become the Apostle Paul and carry the Gospel throughout Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, and Spain. By the grace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul would write many letters in the New Testament, including the book of Romans, written to the Church at Rome, which will be read throughout the summer. Paul's first missionary journey took place over a decade after his conversion. During this period he spent time with the Lord Jesus and in the study of the Scriptures before he was summoned by Barnabas to begin work among the Gentiles. The proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentiles was prepared for by the vision of unclean animals that Peter received in Joppa. In this vision, Peter is catechized on the meaning of justification that Paul would write about in the book of Romans. "What God has declared clean [or justified], you must not declare unclean." Since salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone and not by human merits, the Gospel cannot be denied to the Gentiles. Salvation is freely offered to all.

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: We Are Beggars One and All!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Psalm 145 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: My God and king, I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty and speak of the might of Your awesome acts. Your kingdom is everlasting, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. You are near to all who call upon You. You preserve all who love You. I will forever praise Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66
Evening	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Rich Man and Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31	
Monday	Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Eunuch—Acts 8:26-40	Romans 1:1-17
Tuesday	The Lord Calls Saul on the Road to Damascus—Acts 9:1-9	Romans 1:18-32
Wednesday	The Baptism of Saul—Acts 9:10-22	Romans 2:1-10
Thursday	The Lord Delivers Saul from Death—Acts 9:23-31	Romans 2:11-16
Friday	Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Tabitha—Acts 9:32-43	Romans 2:17-29
Saturday	Peter's Vision—Acts 10:1-23	Romans 3:1-9

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The First Commandment

What is the First Commandment? You shall have no other gods.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.	First Grade +

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

Collect for the First Sunday After Trinity

O God, the strength of all who trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, 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:** Glenn Bollmeyer, Olivia Gehlbach (6/2), Michael Christopherson (6/3), Elijah Ligrow (6/4), Pat Rothe (6/7), Marty Bruss (6/8).
- Wedding Anniversaries:** Doug and Bonnie Westrich (6/1), Karl and Maria Stemke, Lee and Eunice Neujahr (6/4), Pete and Brenda Greschner (6/6), Tyler and Rachel Haga (6/8).
- Military:** Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); and David Uttenreither (Army).
- Thanksgiving:** Bruce Fehr (friend of Anna Steinhilb) in cancer remission.
- The Sick:** Anne (sister of Betsy Banasik) in ICU with brain bleed; Martin Gehlbach recovering from surgery; Jim Cardo, Rick Schuerman (friend of Paul & Sue Kachelmeyer), 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

“To God the Holy Spirt Let Us Pray”

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Trinity

June 9, 2024

Hymns: 536, 510, 653, 622, 526

Proverbs 9:1-10: Repentance, which is a word describing the character of saving faith, involves a “change of mind” or a “different way of believing” about oneself and one’s Lord. It involves the letting go of the self as god because of the belief in one’s sin, and the laying hold of Christ as God because He is the only Savior. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

1 John 3:13-18: Faith is active in love for others. God gives us temporal possessions that we might serve our neighbor in need, and particularly those who are of the household of faith. To have the ability to help a fellow Christian in need but refuse to do so, is a denial of God’s love for us in Christ. We steal from our brother in Christ when we have the means to help him but will not. Jesus used all of His means and sacrificed Himself in love for our salvation.

Luke 14:15-24: The parable of the Great Supper teaches us that the call of the Gospel to receive salvation in Christ is like an invitation which is rejected because people have “more important things to do.” These “things” are really the false faiths of the flesh. They represent the idolatry of the sinful heart that believes in works or any other “god” for its life and salvation. If those who rejected would have believed in their true need for God’s salvation, they would have received the invitation with joy. Those who are helpless and needy receive the invitation and believe the Gospel. Those who believe they have no need reject the invitation and are excluded from salvation.