

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Fifth Sunday after Trinity
 June 30, 2024, through July 7, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 21—A Prayer of Rejoicing in the Lord’s Salvation—
 God the Father heard the prayers of His Son and did not deny the desires of His heart or the requests of His lips. Why? Because the heart of our Lord Jesus was perfectly united in faith and love for the Father and the work of salvation to which the Father had called Him. The King, Christ Jesus, trusted in the LORD, and through the Lord’s mercy He was not moved. God the Father hears our prayers, also, precisely because we are joined to His anointed Son who won salvation for us. Eternal salvation and the absolute guarantee of our victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil is the reason for our joy. In our prayers we join with Christ in rejoicing in the gift of salvation that we have in Christ: “His glory is great in Your salvation; honor and majesty You have placed upon Him. For You have made Him most blessed forever; You have made Him exceedingly glad with Your presence... Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.”

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 Gave Us the Gift of the Holy Ministry!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 10:8-9

**The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we preach:
 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus
 and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead,
 you will be saved.**

Psalm 21 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us the grace of Your only-begotten Son, who so faithfully executed the plan of salvation for our redemption, so that we may ever find our joy and delight in Him who gave Himself for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126
Evening	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	I Will Make You Fishers of Men—Luke 5:1-11	
Monday	The Riot at Ephesus—Acts 19:21-41	Romans 10:1-13
Tuesday	Eutychus Falls from a Window at Troas—Acts 20:1-16 The Visitation—Luke 1:39-45	Romans 10:14-21
Wednesday	Paul Preaches Farewell to the Ephesian Elders—Acts 20:17-38	Romans 11:1-10
Thursday	Paul Returns to Jerusalem—Acts 21:1-17	Romans 11:11-21
Friday	Paul Is Arrested in the Temple—Acts 21:18-36	Romans 11:22-36
Saturday	Paul Preaches to the Mob—Acts 21:37—22:16	Romans 12:1-8

The Catechism: The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

First Grade +

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:
 The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, **Receive the Holy Spirit.**
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23]

Second Grade +

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Third Grade +

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

Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for The Visitation (July 2)

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Dave Aumann, Florence Schmidt (6/30), Kerry Welch (7/1), Robin Theilacker (7/2), Sandy Lueck (7/3), Rosie Koplring (7/6).

Birth: Abigail Marie Haga, newborn daughter of Tyler and Rachel Haga.

The Sick: Carol Bender at Cedar Lake Rehab, West Bend recovering after surgery; Rev. Dan McMiller (stage IV kidney disease); Jeanette Kellar, Jim Cardo, Rick Schuerman, Bill Spilger, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig for cancer.

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

Those who mourn: family and friends of Cheryll Thompson (mother of Sherry Larson).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake

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Looking forward to the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

July 7, 2024

Hymns: 581, 562, 635, 596, 567

Exodus 20:1-17: *The Law is given to preach repentance in order that Christ might be received. Christ alone has fulfilled the whole will and Law of God. We need the Law because we are sinners who need to be directed back to Him again and again. This is the most important function of the Law, for without this function there could be no repentance and the Gospel could not create faith. But the Law also functions in society and home to maintain order and to curb the gross outbreaks of evil. The Law also functions to guide the Christian in knowing what is true, good, right, and wrong. By virtue of our faith in Christ, the new man in us desires to please God and do what is right according to the Law.*

Romans 6:1-11: *In our Baptism we are buried with Christ into His death and raised with Christ into His resurrection. This means that all that He is and has done becomes our own and all that we are has become His. This is the basis of our salvation and our standing before God. We are covered with the righteousness of Christ that sets us free and enables us to live in the freedom of the forgiveness of sins.*

Matthew 5:17-26: *“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Who then can be saved? The only righteousness that “exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees” is the righteousness of Christ. He alone fulfilled every “jot and tittle” of the Law by His sinless life and by offering up His life to satisfy the Law’s just demand for atonement. We must have the righteousness of Christ as our very own in order to be saved. His righteousness alone covers all sin and makes us acceptable to God. His righteousness is received by faith as it is proclaimed to us in the Gospel and sacraments.*