

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
July 21, 2024, through July 28, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 26: A Baptismal Prayer to Renounce Evil and Live Faithfully in Christ—The ancient liturgy of Holy Baptism includes the renunciation of the devil with all his wicked works and all his wicked ways and a firm confession of faith in the Triune God. Psalm 26 is a precursor of that liturgy. Faith in Christ, to which we are all called in our Baptism, renounces all idolatry and every wicked work and scheme of the devil and of those who reject Christ. These themes are echoed in the psalm, along with the confident expression of faith in the Lord who will both uphold those who trust in Him and who daily cleanses us in the call to the repentant life that renounces all uncleanness and hypocrisy. The Lord will “vindicate” His people, showing forth to those who have rejected the Lord that He indeed preserves His own from all the sinister schemes of those who hate the Gospel. The baptized faithful not only renounce the devil and all evil, but they also delight to be in the congregation of the faithful where the Lord’s preaching and the Lord’s Supper sustains, comforts, and strengthens them against every attack upon their faith. “LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells... My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the LORD.”

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: Beware of False Prophets!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Jeremiah 3:22

“Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.”

“Indeed we do come to You, for You are the LORD our God.”

Psalm 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God our heavenly Father, grant us to live in daily contrition and repentance, confessing our sin, and renouncing the devil and our own sinful flesh together with all wicked works and ways. Cleanse our hearts, minds, and consciences. Strengthen our reliance upon Your mercy. Give us a love for Your congregation where the precious Gospel of Your Son is preached and His life-giving sacraments are received; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35
Evening	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Beware of False Prophets—Matthew 7:15-23	
Monday	Jesus Begins His Public Ministry—Mark 1:14-20 St. Mary Magdalene—John 20:1-2, 10-18	Jeremiah 2:1-8
Tuesday	The Signs of the Messiah—Mark 1:21-34	Jeremiah 3:1-5
Wednesday	Jesus Preaches in Galilee and Cleanses a Leper—Mark 1:35-45	Jeremiah 3:6-15
Thursday	Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Mark 2:1-12 St. James the Elder, Apostle—Acts 11:27—12:5	Jeremiah 3:16-25
Friday	Matthew the Tax Collector—Mark 2:13-17	Jeremiah 4:19-26
Saturday	Fasting and the Sabbath—Mark 2:18-28	Jeremiah 5:1-9

The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—First Petition

What is the First Petition? Hallowed be Thy name.	Preschool +
What does this mean? God’s name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.	Second Grade +
How is God’s name kept holy? God’s name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God’s Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!	Third Grade +

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

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through 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: Barry Wurster, Elias Giordano (7/23), Bryan Stoltenberg, Carson Scalercio, Michael Daleiden (7/25).
Wedding Anniversaries: Rev. Peter and Beth Bender, Mike and Laura Ferguson (7/21), Kerry and Cindy Welch (7/23), Erik and Jennifer Krueger, Keith and Hannah Gierach (7/25), Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach (7/26), Chuck and Janeen Hartwig (7/27).
The Sick: George Kaminski having open-heart surgery, Krissy & Matt Batson who suffered a miscarriage, Beth Petersen following knee surgery, Carol Bender, 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).

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

Hymn of the Week

“In God, My Faithful God”

745

Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

July 28, 2024

Hymns: 656, 730, 728, 714, 786, 869

2 Samuel 22:26-34: This passage of Second Samuel records for us part of the text that Jesus used in teaching the parable of the Unjust Steward. It speaks of how the Lord Himself is more shrewd and clever than even the most shrewd and clever of men: “With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; with the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down” (vs. 26-28).

1 Corinthians 10:6-13: St. Paul uses the example of Old Testament Israel to warn the Corinthian Christians against the danger of idolatry (false faith and worship) which evidences itself in sexual immorality, murmuring, and complaining against the Lord. The end of such idolatry is the loss of faith and eternal death. This warning against the danger of idolatry is intended to draw us to the One Man, Christ Jesus, who alone can deliver us from these dangers in the time of such temptation: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (vs. 12-13).

Luke 16:1-13 “The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly” (Luke 16:1–9). The steward’s shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master’s name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father’s possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord’s Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when the earthly fails. These are our escape in temptation (1 Cor. 10:6–13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam 22:26–34). —Excerpted from the LSB hymnal project