

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 14 through June 21, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— We need pastors! Have you ever thought about your need for a pastor? We might say, “We need Jesus!” Every Christian would agree with that statement. We need Jesus who has died for us, shed His blood for us, who forgives our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life and the resurrection from the dead. We need faith in Him to receive what He has done, but this is why Jesus instituted the Office of the Ministry. It is not only necessary for Jesus to have suffered and died for our sins and to have risen from the dead the third day according to the Scriptures, but it is equally necessary for this Gospel to be preached to us that we might be called to repentance and faith in Him. This is why Jesus instituted the Office of the Holy Ministry. We need pastors to preach the Word of God to us, to call us to repentance, to baptize us, to forgive us, to give us Christ’s body and blood, to pray for us, to shoulder our burdens, to admonish us, to comfort us, and to give us counsel from God’s Word. We need pastors as much as a child needs a mother and father. The gift of pastors is rooted in Jesus’ compassion. “When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matt. 9:36/ESV). “Pastor” means “shepherd,” so Jesus says, “pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.” May we always pray for the gift of pastors to serve us with the life-giving Word of our Savior.

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: Pray the Lord of the Harvest to Send Laborers into His Harvest!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Matthew 10:37-38**

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.

Psalms 100 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 100: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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	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	Pentecost 3: Sending Out the Twelve—Matthew 9:35—10:20	
Monday	Lay Up for Yourselves Treasure in Heaven—Matthew 6:19-34	Isaiah 12:1-6
Tuesday	Jesus Is the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:1-14	Isaiah 13:9-13
Wednesday	The Wise Man Builds His House on the Rock—Matthew 7:15-29	Isaiah 14:12-21
Thursday	Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Matthew 8:1-4	Isaiah 17:7-11
Friday	Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant—Matthew 8:5-13	Isaiah 18:3-6
Saturday	Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law—Matthew 8:14-22	Isaiah 19:1-4

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments — Third Commandment

What is the Third Commandment?

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Preschool +

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

First Grade +

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

Collect for the Feast of the Third Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; 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
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

Baptismal anniversaries: Jennifer Clark, Marcy Gall, Hannah Gierach, Sharon Martin, Christine Meyle (6/15); Erich Greschner (6/18); Matthias Woods (6/20).

In remembrance: We, along with the Nitzsche family, remember Albert Nitzsche and Paul Kiel and give thanks to God for the loving-kindness of the Lord shown to and through them during their lives.

The sick: Corey Aimers (daughter of Donna Schaefer), hospitalized and slowly recovering after being struck by a car while bike riding; Bob Zaretzke, hospitalized; Jon Bruss in rehab; Jodi Winn (Sharon Murphy’s niece) in rehab after a head injury.

In cancer treatment: Art Klausmeier (Mark Goltermann’s cousin) who has exhausted treatment options; Barbara Galis (Nick Galis’ grandmother) undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer; Bob Rothe, Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s brother), Michael Gehl (friend of the Bruss family), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothe family), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore), Loretta Lampen, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

Those in hospice care: Sid Franklin.

Those who mourn: the family and friends of Carol Marie Bender.

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

Hymn of the Week

“God Loved the World So that He Gave”

571

Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7)

June 21, 2026

Hymns: 713, 659, 696, 599, 666, 685

Jeremiah 20:7-13: The prophet Jeremiah knew suffering, persecution, hatred, and rejection for faithfully preaching God’s Word. The people would not listen. They denounced him. He was imprisoned and nearly martyred. But the Lord strengthened Jeremiah to be faithful. He could not help himself. He had to preach: “His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.” Throughout his ministry, Jeremiah commended his cause to the Lord who had sent Him to preach His Word. In the end, he encourages us in times of persecution, “Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord! For He has delivered the life of the poor from the hand of evildoers.”

Romans 6:12-23: Is it possible for devout Christians to be led into sin by the corruption of their sinful nature? Yes it is! Paul gives us very practical instruction about living the Christian life. The influence of sin is all around us, and particularly within our own sinful flesh. He warns us of the power of sin that still permeates our nature. The life of prayer, daily devotions, meditation upon the Word, confession and absolution, and faithful reception of the Lord’s Divine Service is essential to our lives as baptized Christians. All this is behind Paul’s counsel, “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (vs. 12-14). There is a difference between feeling the daily lust of the flesh and willfully and continuously yielding to those impulses. Paul’s concern is that if we do not engage in a battle against the flesh with the weapons Christ has provided, we will lose our faith in Christ entirely.

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33: Jesus’ catechesis for the Twelve concerning their ministry and that of future ministry continues in this Sunday’s Gospel. Jesus says, “A disciple is not above his teacher.” The things that happened to Him will happen to us, and they will happen especially to the ministers of Christ. “Brother will deliver brother to death...children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated for my name’s sake.” Those are startling and ominous words. But when we patiently endure hatred and suffering for being a Christian, particularly from those we love the most, it is a testimony that we belong to Christ. By our patient endurance, we bear witness to His love for all in the Gospel. Jesus promises, “the one who endures to the end will be saved.” Let us have no fear of the one who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. We belong to Jesus and “even the hairs of our head are numbered.” Jesus’ words are not easy to hear, but they are, nevertheless, a source of comfort. Let us pray for faithfulness and strength. And let us rest upon Jesus’ promise, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”