

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 21 through June 28, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— Confessing Christ** — *Jesus promises that whoever confesses Him before men, He will confess before His Father in heaven. To confess Christ can sometimes mean a lonely life. The depth of human sin and its hold on people can be seen in the hatred people often exhibit toward the Gospel and those who confess Christ. We confess Jesus as the Savior of all who loves all and has redeemed all, but not all accept this gift. Why would they reject this precious Gospel that is their salvation? This is a mystery that we cannot answer. We are to take comfort in the promise of the Gospel and commend those who reject Christ to the same love of God for them that gives us comfort. Jesus knows our need. Do not fear those who hate you. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. The Lord knows your need, even the hairs of our head are numbered. “Whoever confessed me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” This Word of the Lord is both a comforting promise and a sobering warning. Yet even the warning is given so that when we fall, as Peter did, we might return to Him whose mercy is new every day. As He restored Peter through His absolution, so He promises to restore us when we are brought to contrition and repentance. This is why we hold fast to Him especially in persecution.*

## 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 Preserves Us in Persecution!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

Verse: **Matthew 10:28**

**Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.  
But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Psalm 91:1-10 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on Psalm 91:** Lord Jesus, You are the Author and Finisher of faith, grant us the true and saving faith, and preserve us in the same against all temptations to doubt and unbelief. Blot out our iniquities by Your blood; cover our sins with Your righteousness, and let Your angels be a fenced wall around us against all our enemies, and evermore teach us to know the secret of Your Father’s will, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33
Evening	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Pentecost 4: Disciple Not Above His Teacher—Mt 10:5a, 21-33</b>	
Monday	Jesus Stills the Storm—Matthew 8:23-27	Isaiah 20:1-6
Tuesday	Two Demon-Possessed Men Are Healed—Matthew 8:28-34	Isaiah 21:1-10
Wednesday	<b>Nativity of St. John the Baptist: Luke 1:57-80</b>	<b>Acts 13:13-26</b>
Thursday	Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8	Isaiah 22:1-14
Friday	Matthew the Tax Collector—Matthew 9:9-13	Isaiah 22:20-23
Saturday	A Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed—Matthew 9:14-26	Isaiah 23:6-14

### The Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer — Sixth Petition

*What is the Sixth Petition?*

**And lead us not into temptation.**

*What does this mean?*

God tempts no one.

We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us

so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things,

we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Preschool +

Third Grade +

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

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

*O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Collect for the Nativity of St John the Baptist**

*Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**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...”**

**LCMS Presidential election and governance**

**Baptismal anniversaries:** *Carol Zick (6/22); Heather Skrepenski (6/24); Cheri LaFore (6/26).*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Reuben and Laurie Roe, Bryan and Kathy Stoltenberg (6/21); Stan and Joan Hiene (6/23); Brett and Kara Rhode (6/26).*

**The sick:** *Kathy Federman and Bob Zaretzke, recovering from hospitalizations; Jon Bruss and Jodi Winn in rehab.*

**In cancer treatment:** *Art Klausmeier, Barbara Galis, Bob Rothe, Michael Piper, Michael Gehl, Mary O’Flyng, Tim Francis, 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 Corey Aimers (daughter of Donna Schaefer) and Shelley Gooder (Jennifer Scheler’s stepmother who was recently widowed).*

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**“Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation”**

**659**

**Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7)**

**June 28, 2026**

**Hymns: 658, 657, 579, 661, 688, 655**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9:** *The prophets of the Lord are called to preach only His Word and no other message. Sometimes the Lord calls His prophets to proclaim judgement against an impenitent and ungodly people. Sometimes the Lord calls His prophets to proclaim the peace of God to the broken and contrite of heart. In both cases, the Word of the prophet must come to pass in order for him to be considered a true and faithful prophet of the Lord. The same standard applies to pastors today. They must preach and teach only according to the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. When the Lord’s Word is spoken, the Lord’s intention is always to save the hearer.*

**Romans 7:1-13:** *By using the example of how a woman is freed from the law of marriage when her husband dies, Paul teaches us that Christ’s death has freed us from the requirement of the Law and set us free. This does not mean that the Law is evil or sinful, nor does it mean that the Law has no place in the Church or in the life of a Christian. The Law that is fulfilled in Christ, including the Law’s demand for punishment and restitution for sin, cannot condemn us. Yet the Law remains to show us our sin, to call us to repentance, and to guide the Church and the Christian in what is good and right. Sin is the cause of death and we need the Law to show us the full implications of our sin that we might be turned to Christ.*

**Matthew 10:34-42:** *Where Christ is faithfully confessed, there will be strife. Once again, Jesus’ words are jarring and counterintuitive: “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” These words make no sense to human reason because we expect peace to follow the ministry of the Prince of Peace who proclaims the gift of peace with God for all! But the peace that Jesus gives is not the peace of this world. Jesus’ peace is the gift of forgiveness that the world rejects. Sinful man wants “peace” on his terms. The world’s peace knows nothing of contrition and repentance. Because of this, Jesus says, “A man’s foes will be those of his own household.” For us as Christians, nothing matters more than Christ. Every other proper earthly loyalty must give way to Him through whom alone there is the gift of life and salvation. As important as earthly relationships are, none of them can save us or give us peace with God. This is why Jesus says, “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And He who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” When we hear these words, let us never forget that the reason why we hold to Christ above all other relationships is because only in Him do those we love have the gift of salvation.*