

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12 through July 19, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week— Christian Meditation— “When the language of the catechism is learned by heart, it becomes an indispensable aid in meditation and is continually used by the Holy Spirit for our comfort and to awaken in us new understandings. Christian meditation is to give one’s mind and heart to the contemplation of God’s Word. It is to reflect upon and ponder the Word of God. To put it crassly, Christian meditation is the ‘regurgitation’ of the Word of God. Like a cow that chews her cud, it involves recalling the Word of God that has been previously “implanted” in the heart, for the purpose of receiving from it even greater blessings for our faith and life. This can only happen when the Word of God and the text of the catechism are committed to memory, or ‘learned by heart.’ Unlike other forms of meditation which teach the individual to find renewed strength and peace from that which is within the self, Christian meditation directs us away from our sinful self to find our comfort, strength, and life in the ‘implanted word, which is able to save [our] souls’”— (Excerpted from the Introduction to Lutheran Catechesis, p. 3). The Congregation at Prayer affords us the opportunity to discipline our flesh with the Word of God and prayer. It sets before us regular portions of the Catechism, Bible Verses, Bible Stories, Psalms, and Hymns for meditation and prayer. The table of psalms enables us to pray through the entire Psalter (150 psalms) over a 60-day period. The psalms are God’s Word given us to pray, confess, and sing. They are understood through faith in Christ who learned and prayed them by heart throughout His life. We can pray them through faith in Him since He “carried all our sorrows and infirmities” and was still, for us and for our salvation, the righteous man of faith.

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: God’s Word Is the Power of God for Faith and Life!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Isaiah 55:10-11

**For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there,
but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud,
that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please,
and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

Psalm 65:9-13 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 65: Almighty and most merciful God, You provide us with every blessing in Christ Jesus, atonement for our sin and the preservation of the world in which we live. Grant us to render thanks and praise to you, and to confess with confidence that You are the source of all that we need for life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88
Evening	72	74	77	79	81	83	86	87

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Pentecost 7: The Sower and the Seed—Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	
Monday	The Purpose of Parables—Matthew 13:10-23	Isaiah 33:17-24
Tuesday	The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares—Matthew 13:24-35	Isaiah 34:1-4, 8
Wednesday	Parables of the Kingdom—Matthew 13:36-46	Isaiah 35:1-10
Thursday	The Parable of the Dragnet—Matthew 13:47-58	Isaiah 36:1-2, 13-22
Friday	John the Baptist Is Beheaded—Matthew 14:1-13	Isaiah 37:1-20
Saturday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:14-21	Isaiah 37:21-37

The Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—First Petition

What is the First Petition?

Hallowed be Thy name.

Preschool +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also. <i>How is God's name kept holy?</i> 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!</p>	<p>Second Grade +</p> <p>Third Grade +</p>
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Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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
- 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 Convention

Baptismal anniversaries: Christian Ellestad, Kristine Ellestad, Laura Ferguson, Kara Rhode (7/13); Adelia Haga, Meghan Krueger (7/14); Ryder Richards (7/16); Elizabeth Bender, Mary Bender (7/18).

Wedding Anniversaries: Patrick and Sierra Meyer (7/15), Bob and Amy Gierach (7/16).

The sick: John Lehman undergoing surgery on his spine this Tuesday; Jennifer Torkelson undergoing cardiac testing and treatment; June Brueck, Carol David, Jon Bruss, and Jodi Winn in rehab.

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

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

Hymn of the Week

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

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Looking forward to the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)

July 19, 2026

Hymns: 766, 658, 652, 508, 509

Isaiah 44:6-8: *The powerful words of the prophet Isaiah proclaim that the true God is our Redeemer. We know Him as the Triune God through the revelation we have received in Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. He not only created us, but He most especially redeemed us. He alone is God and Lord. Apart from Him there is no god. Because we have Him who has created us, redeemed us, and made us His own in Holy Baptism, we need fear nothing.*

Romans 8:18-27: *When the Apostle Paul speaks of “the sufferings of this present time” he is speaking especially of those struggles and sufferings we receive as Christians and under which our faith is attacked. The suffering of persecution, the suffering caused us by family members who reject the Gospel, the suffering of our own flesh which fights against faith's claim upon us. These are the unique sufferings we experience as Christians, precisely because we are Christians. St. Paul's encouragement is very comforting: “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” “The glory which shall be revealed in us” is the glory of Christ, in which all sin, evil, unbelief, lack of knowledge and understanding, and pain will be done away with in the resurrection. When our baptism comes to its fulfillment in the resurrection of the body on the last day, the glory of the perfect, immortal, and incorruptible union with Christ will be so great that the “present sufferings” will be nothing in comparison.*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43: *When we see the problem of unbelief, false doctrine, and apostasy from the truth existing within the Church and the world, we are tempted (as Peter was in the Garden of Gethsemane) to lash out in ways that God has not called us to attempt to eradicate all unbelief and opposition to the truth. Instead, we are called to faith in God's Word—to rely upon the preaching of the Gospel and to trust that the Holy Spirit will work faith and convert hearts when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel. In this life we are only called to be faithful to what God has called us to be and to do. This parable teaches us that believers and unbelievers will coexist in the world until the Judgment. The identity of the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the wicked one is often hidden, and will not be revealed until the end of the age. Unbelievers will receive the condemnation of hell and believers, made righteous through Christ, “will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”*