

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19 through July 26, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week—St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)—Whenever the New Testament Gospels name the women who were with Jesus, St. Mary Magdalene is listed (John 19:25 is the only exception, perhaps because she was the first to see the risen Savior alive. Luke 8:2 reports that Jesus had cured her of being possessed by seven demons. Through the centuries, she has often been identified with the repentant “woman of the city” who anointed Jesus’ feet as He sat at the table in the Pharisee’s home (Luke 7:36-50). But there is no biblical basis for this identification of her with a penitent prostitute. Nor is she to be identified with Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany. According to the Gospels, Mary Magdalene saw Jesus die; she witnessed His burial; and, most important, she was the first to see Him alive again after His resurrection (John 20:11-18). It is for good reason that Bernard of Clairvaux calls her “the apostle to the apostles.” – from the Treasury of Daily Prayer

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: The Holy Spirit Works Faith When and Where He Pleases.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 13:41-42

The Son of Man will send out His angels,
and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend,
and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire.
There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Psalms 119:57-64 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 119: O most merciful God and Father, remember me in my weakness and distress according to the promises of Your Word. Give me a repentant heart, teach me to confess my sins in my evening prayers, sustain me by your grace throughout my earthly pilgrimage, and grant me to know that when I receive Your Word, I have Your Son with His every grace and blessing. You—O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are my portion forever. Teach me Your statutes that I may live in You, even as You live in me, for You live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103
Evening	87	90	93	94	97	99	102	104

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Pentecost 8: Parable of Tares and Wheat—Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43	
Monday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36	Isaiah 39:1-8
Tuesday	Out of Man’s Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20	Isaiah 40:1-11
Wednesday	St. Mary Magdalene: John 20:1-2, 10-18 A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus’ Word—Matthew 15:21-31	Isaiah 40:25-31
Thursday	The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39	Isaiah 41:8-20
Friday	The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12	Isaiah 42:1-13
Saturday	St. James the Elder, Apostle: Acts 11:27—12:5 The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23	Isaiah 43:1-13

The Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Second Petition

What is the Second Petition? Thy kingdom come.	Preschool +
What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.	First Grade +
How does God’s kingdom come? God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.	Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 St. Mary Magdalene

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, restored Mary Magdalene to health and called her to be the first witness of His resurrection. Heal us from all our infirmities, and call us to know You in the power of Your Son's unending life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. James the Elder, Apostle

O gracious God, Your servant and apostle James was the first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour out upon the leaders of Your Church that spirit of self-denying service that they may forsake all false and passing allurements and follow Christ alone, 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

Baptism: Iris Vale Meyer, infant Daughter of Patrick and Sierra Meyer. **Baptismal anniversaries:** Talitha Schneider (7/20); Elias Giordano, Barry Wurster (7/23); Michael Daleiden, Carson Scalerico, Bryan Stoltenberg (7/25).

Wedding Anniversaries: Jim and Karen Frerking (7/19); Peter and Beth Bender, Michael and Laura Ferguson (7/21); Kerry and Cindy Welch (7/23); Keith and Hannah Gierach, Erik and Jennifer Krueger (7/25).

The sick: John Lehman recovering from spinal surgery; 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) who has exhausted treatment options; 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.

Those who mourn: The Zach and Amy Stigler family (relatives of the Bruss's) who lost their son Forester.

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

Hymn of the Week

“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

585

Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)

July 26, 2026

Hymns: 531, 713, 746, 619, 573, 548

Deuteronomy 7:6-9: The Old Testament Reading anticipates the Gospel for the week. The Lord's redeemed people are called a “chosen people” or a “holy people” or a “special treasure” not because of anything in them that they have done, but because of the Lord's love and the oath that He swore to them.

Romans 8:28-39: For the Christian, God works in all things for our ultimate good, namely, our salvation and the preservation of our salvation in Christ. The Apostle Paul gives comfort to the Christian by saying that God foreknew and predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ, calling us to faith, justifying us, and glorifying us. In response to all of this it is clear that God is for us, on our side, and if He is for us “who can be against us?” No one. Furthermore, since God has given us His only Son for our redemption, we can be confident that He will provide us with all that we need and that nothing in all of creation can possibly separate us from God's love in Christ.

Matthew 13:44-52: The twin parables of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price are parables of redemption. In the Second Article of the Creed each of us confesses that Christ “has redeemed me a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own.” Jesus is like the man who found a treasure hidden in a field who, for joy over it, sells all that he has and buys that field. Jesus redeemed the whole world by the price of His blood that He might obtain His treasure—the redeemed who believe in Him. Even though many reject Christ's redemption, He still paid the full price to redeem the entire world. Jesus is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, when he finds one of great price, he sells all that he has and buys it. Again, Jesus set aside all that was His in order to redeem us—His pearl of great price. The redeemed of the Lord are a “treasure” or a “pearl of great price” because of the price that Jesus paid for our redemption.