

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26 through August 2, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “He Has Redeemed Me”—The Small Catechism preaches the Gospel to us in such sweet and comforting words. “My Lord 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 ...’” Sin separated us from God and resulted in death and condemnation. Jesus, the Son of God, stepped into our human flesh and assumed the guilt for our sin. He carried our sin and its consequences all the way to the cross. He suffered our death and condemnation, so that by the shedding of His blood unto death we are set free from the devastating consequences of our sin. Now we belong to Him! We live under the all-sufficient mantel and covering of His “righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.” Jesus’ redemption, the shedding of His blood in love for us to set us free from sin and to rescue us from eternal death, is at the heart of the Christian faith and life. Not only is there no salvation apart from Jesus’ redeeming work; His redeeming work, received in the Gospel and the Sacraments, is the source of the holy life that we live. It is His redeeming work, received by faith, through the Gospel and sacraments that produces the fruits of faith in us. These fruits of faith are Jesus’ own works of love and mercy in us toward our neighbor. His redeeming work is the center of our salvation, faith, and life.

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 Has Redeemed Me with His Holy Precious Blood!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid;
and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Psalm 125 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 125: O LORD, grant us firm faith in You. Establish us in the freedom of Your salvation so that we fear no power on earth but abide in the protection of Your love; 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	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24
Evening	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Pentecost 9: Kingdom Parables—Matthew 13:44-52	
Monday	Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me—Matthew 16:24-28	Isaiah 44:2-8
Tuesday	The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13	Isaiah 44:9-23
Wednesday	A Boy Is Healed—Matthew 17:14-21	Isaiah 44:24-28
Thursday	Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection—Matthew 17:22-27	Isaiah 45:1-13
Friday	Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven—Matthew 18:1-14	Isaiah 45:14-25
Saturday	If Your Brother Sins—Matthew 18:15-22	Isaiah 46:1-13

The Catechism: The Creed—Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

Preschool +

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

What does this mean?

First Grade +

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
who 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 and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

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

Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised we may love what You have commanded; 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: Bryan Nitzsche (7/31).

Wedding Anniversaries: Andrew and Olivia Gehlbach (7/26); Keith and Cindy Kunkel, Jim and Dorothee Behling (7/30); Jeremy and Nancy LaFore (7/31) Scott and Chantel Perry (8/1).

The sick: John Lehman recovering from spinal surgery; Jennifer Torkelson undergoing cardiac testing and treatment; June Brueck, Carol David 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 family and friends of Joanne McMiller (Jim McMiller’s mother).

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

Hymn of the Week

“From God Can Nothing Move Me”

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Looking forward to the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)

August 2, 2026

Hymns: 636 (1-4), 642, 636 (5-8), 652, 525, 632

Isaiah 55:1-5: The Lord, through the prophet Isaiah, emphasizes that the message of the Gospel is, at its core, the message of salvation for sinners by grace alone. Salvation cannot be purchased with our money or good works; it must be received by faith from that One, our Savior, who has done all for us.

Romans 9:1-5 (6-13): The Apostle Paul, himself a Jew, expresses his yearning for the salvation of his fellow Jews. His love for them, even though they had rejected the Gospel, was a love born of that same Gospel. It was Christ’s love at work in him. This man, who had been so full of anger and hate before his conversion, had become a man of love and compassion for all sinners and his fellow Jews because his heart was captured by the Gospel of his Savior.

Matthew 14:13-21: In Matthew’s telling of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, he emphasizes how Jesus showed the disciples how completely dependent they were on Him for everything. “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” He said, “Bring them here to Me.” In that seemingly insignificant exchange with His disciples, Jesus taught them an important lesson for their future ministry and for the life of the Church. On the one hand, they had nothing of their own as disciples of Jesus by which they could “feed” their future flocks. On the other hand, He had given them everything for the Church and their future ministry because He had given them Himself. This remains the foundational understanding for the Church and her ministers in carrying out the work to which Christ has called us.