

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16 through August 23, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Crucifix and the Preaching of the Gospel—St. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians about what was at the center of everything in the Church: Christ, the crucified! “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 1:18; 2:1-2) A crucifix is not the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it is a symbol for that preaching. The proclamation of the Gospel saves, creates faith, forgives sins, and rescues from death and the devil when it is received by faith precisely because it is the PROCLAMATION to sinners that God in Christ reconciled them to Himself through the death of His Son, who fully atoned for their sin and won their forgiveness. “Jesus is your righteousness, life, and salvation for you as a sinner because He suffered and died for you upon the cross. His death paid the full price for all your sin. Be of good cheer, for the sake of Jesus’ death upon the cross your sins are forgiven.” That is the “message of the cross” that saves the penitent sinner who believes it. When one believes the message of the cross, the crucifix can be a comforting reminder of all that Jesus did for us in His death upon the cross. The message of the cross does not deny the resurrection of Jesus, rather it is the source of life from the dead for Jesus first and then for all who believe the message of Christ crucified.

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: Even Dogs Eat the Crumbs that Fall from the Master’s Table

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 15:27b

Even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.

Psalm 67 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm 67: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
Evening	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Pentecost 12: The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28	
Monday	The Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14	Isaiah 56:1-8
Tuesday	Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar’s—Matt. 22:15-22	Isaiah 57:1-21
Wednesday	Questions About the Resurrection—Matthew 22:23-33	Isaiah 58:6-14
Thursday	The Greatest Commandment—Matthew 22:34-46	Isaiah 59:1-8
Friday	Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees—Matthew 23:1-36	Isaiah 59:9-21
Saturday	Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End—Matthew 23:37–24:14	Isaiah 60:1-7, 19-22

The Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Third Petition

What is the Third Petition?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

Preschool +

First Grade +

<i>How is God's will done?</i> God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.	Third Grade +
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Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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...”

Baptismal anniversaries: Jan Finke (8/16); Sierra Fredrich (8/17); Brenda Greschner (8/18); Beth Bender, Mark Ruhbusch (8/20); Becca Gierach, Wesley Giordano, Ashley Sawatzki (8/21).
Wedding Anniversaries: Bob and Doreen Corso (8/16), Barry and Maureen Wurster (8/20).
The sick: Janice Bira (Dave Aumann’s sister); Bob Schiellack (Rosie Kopling’s brother), recovering from surgery; Bruce Gutknecht (Julie Goltermann’s uncle) undergoing heart valve replacement surgery on Wednesday
John Lehman and Jodi Winn in rehab.
In cancer treatment: Robin Ruhbusch (sister-in-law to Mark and Melody Ruhbusch) whose cancer has metastasized; 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 Tonya Knoblock (Paul Kachelmeyer’s Nephew’s wife).

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

Hymn of the Week	“When in the Hour of Deepest Need”	615
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Looking forward to the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)	August 23, 2026
Hymns: 647, 645, 575, 862, 644, 953	
Isaiah 51:1-6: “The Rock” out of which the children of Abraham and, therefore, the Church was hewn is the promise of the Gospel made to Abraham, reiterated through the witness of all the prophets, and finally confessed and preached by the Apostolic witnesses. Only the sure and certain Rock of God’s promises of the Gospel that the Church preaches and confesses can give salvation and guarantee our ongoing relationship with God. When we receive these promises of salvation we receive Christ Jesus, the very Rock of our salvation Himself.	
Romans 11:33-12:8: St. Paul exhorts Christians to present themselves to God as “living sacrifices” because He has redeemed them through the blood of Christ. “Of Christ and through Christ and to Christ are all things” and “to Him is the glory forever.” The Christian confession of faith in Christ that is born in us by the Gospel is also a confession that is expressed by the lives we live in our vocation. We are called to faith in Christ and this faith in His undeserved mercy and love shapes the way in which we live with one another.	
Matthew 16:13-20: Peter’s confession of faith concerning Jesus was: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” After Peter made this confession, Jesus instructed him concerning where it came from and what it would mean for him, the office of the Holy Ministry, and the Church of Jesus Christ. First, although it could be said that this was Peter’s confession of faith; he sincerely believed it; he spoke the words; “This is what I believe,” he would have said, yet this confession and the faith of the heart out of which it arose was entirely a gift of God. It was not Peter’s own creation. “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” Whenever any of us, as Christians, confess the true faith it is “our personal confession” but it comes entirely from God and we, as Christians, all really confess the same thing. Second, the Rock upon which Jesus would build His Church was NOT the person of Peter (Roman Catholicism and the institution of the papacy), nor was it the faith of Peter’s heart (much of Protestantism). Instead, the Rock upon which Jesus builds His Church is the CONFESSION of the truth of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. In other words, the Church is created and sustained by the Word of God alone, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the truth that comes from God alone. It is, therefore, only the confession of the truth of God’s Word that guarantees the Church’s existence and the power and efficacy of the Church’s ministry—the Office of the Keys.	