

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Trinity
July 9 through July 16, 2006*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Forgiving Others — Faith in Christ believes that Jesus has atoned for all sin in His death upon the cross. This is why we forgive those who trespass against us. Christ has taken away their punishment and we have no right to hold their sins against them. Unless God has given us an office, like that of a civil magistrate or parent, which calls us to make judgments according to our station in life in order to maintain civil order, we have no right to condemn those who have sinned against us. Unbelief holds on to the sins of others and insists upon retribution. This is why the refusal to forgive is so serious. The refusal to forgive is a denial of our faith in Christ's forgiveness of the world by grace alone. Every aspect of our lives is lived by faith in the mercy and forgiveness of God in Christ.

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 dicta te.

Theme: Christians Are the People of Mercy.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 12:14-15

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Psalm 138 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, of Your tender love towards us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and come to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68
Evening	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer—The Fifth Petition

What is the Fifth Petition?

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them.
We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.
So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Second Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family	Second Reading
Monday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Mark 6:30-44	1 Samuel 9:1-27
Tuesday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Mark 6:45-56	1 Samuel 10:1-27
Wednesday	Out of Man's Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Mark 7:1-23	1 Samuel 12:1-25
Thursday	A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus' Word—Mark 7:24-30	1 Samuel 13:1-14
Friday	Look ahead to Sunday	1 Samuel 15:1-35
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday	1 Samuel 16:1-23

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

Collect for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Grant, O Lord, we implore You, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance, that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; 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

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Academy, our church schools, and seminaries.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Frank Koplring in hospice care.

Noel Stegemeyer, recuperating at home following surgery.

Estelle Reid, Jan Mauritz, and Gay Heling at Linden Grove Nursing Home.

Those suffering with cancer: May Kunkel and Betsy Quick

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

Hymn of Week

"Let Me Be Thine Forever"

334

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

July 16, 2006

Hymns: 483, 485 (1-3), 485 (4-7), 487

1 Kings 19:11-21: *The prophet Elijah is shown by the Lord that the Lord's greatest power and glory will be demonstrated in the "still small voice" of His Word that preaches salvation to the poorest and lowliest sinner. So it is for us, in the time of faith, this earthly life, the Lord comes to us in His Word. Unlike Satan, He does not force Himself upon us in an oppressive and coercive way, He speaks to us, calling us to repentance and faith that He might bestow upon us the freedom of life with God through the forgiveness of all our sins.*

1 Corinthians 1:18-25: *"Christ crucified" is what the true Church of God and her ministers preach. This means that we believe in the God who became man and died for our sins. This means that we preach what is considered "foolish" and a "stumbling block" to the unbelieving world, namely, that salvation is a gift of God's grace alone through the death of His Son for all those who believe without distinction.*

Luke 5:1-11: *By a great miracle, Jesus called four fisherman to be fishers of men in token that the Gospel must be preached to the four corners of the earth. Peter, on behalf of all ministers, rightly confessed "we have toiled...and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your Word" we will preach the Gospel. This miraculous sign gave Peter a deep sense of his own sinfulness. The minister of the Gospel has no strength apart from the Word he is called to preach. But this Word is all sufficient for the task at hand. "To obtain faith in Christ" the Lutheran reformers declared in the Augsburg Confession, "God instituted the preaching office to give the Gospel and Sacraments. Through these (the Gospel and Sacraments) the Holy Spirit works faith when and where He pleases in those who hear the Gospel." (Augsburg Confession, Art. V)*