

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixth Sunday after Trinity
July 23 through July 30, 2006*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Repetition in Prayer - Isn't it a lot of useless babbling? Many people are often bothered by repeating prayers, creeds, and sections of the catechism by heart. Doesn't this demonstrate a lack of spirituality? Doesn't Jesus condemn "vain repetition"? Jesus does condemn vain repetition? Yes He does! Vain repetition is the repetition of words with no faith in Christ or with the belief that our prayers are a good work which helps us earn God's grace. This is the bad part of repetition. But Jesus' condemnation of "vain repetition" applies also to the so-called "prayers from the heart", when those prayers come from the same kind of faith. We must remember the source of true spirituality. It does not come from the emotions of our heart or our creative mind. It comes from the Spirit of God through a definite Word He has spoken to us. It is the sturdy and unchanging Word of God which gives life to our prayers. Through God's word the Holy Spirit works true faith, enabling us to call upon Him in prayer. The repetition of words which are deeply anchored in the Word of God, enables the Word of God to penetrate deeply into our subconscious mind and to the very depths of our soul. The Holy Spirit continues to minister to us, even when we are unaware of it, through Word of God which is learned by heart and repeated in prayer. As you pray, first learn to listen to the Word of God in those things which are "learned by heart." The Holy Spirit will comfort you through this Word and open up to you new understandings of His undeserved mercy.

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: The Righteousness of Christ Is Our Salvation.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 6:5-7

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Psalm 90 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us Your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification, quicken us, we beseech You, by Your Holy Spirit, to newness of life that through the power of His resurrection we may dwell with Christ forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101
Evening	86	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—The Daily Significance of Holy Baptism

<p><i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.</p>	Third Grad +
<p>Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:</p>	First Grade +
<p>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death</p>	Kindergarten +
<p>in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]</p>	Second Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family	Second Reading
Monday	The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Mark 8:27—9:1	1 Samuel 26:1-25
Tuesday	The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Mark 9:2-13	1 Samuel 28:3-25
Wednesday	A Boy Is Healed—Mark 9:14-32	1 Samuel 31:1-13
Thursday	Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?—Mark 9:33-50	2 Samuel 1:1-27
Friday	Look ahead to Sunday	2 Samuel 5:1-25
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday	2 Samuel 6:1-23

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

Collect for the Week of the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, whose gracious presence never fails to guide and govern those whom You have nurtured in Your steadfast love and worship, make us ever revere and adore Your holy name; 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

*Estelle Reid and Jan Mauritz 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

"Through Jesus' Blood and Merit"

372

Looking forward to the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 30, 2006

Hymns: 19, 873, 312, 316 (st. 1,4,5)

Genesis 2:7-17: *The prophet Moses teaches us that we were created by God from the dust of the earth. Our life comes from the Word of God.. The Tree of Life gave life according to God's promise, but man chose to turn away from that tree and go his own way. This is the origin of all sin and death. Christ redeems us from the curse by being lifted up upon the tree of the cross.*

Romans 6:19-21: *St. Paul teaches that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Mark 8:1-9: *Jesus is the bread of life. In the miracle of the feeding of the 4,000, He shows Himself to be the Savior of all people and the source of all life and salvation. The numbers in this story are not insignificant. Numbers in the Bible have familiar usages. The number seven is often God's number of perfection and is often associated with the Holy Spirit, His seven-fold gifts of grace, and the Church which is formed from every tribe and nation of people. The number four is often associated with the earth, sometimes spoken of as having "four corners"—north, south, east, and west—from which all the people of Christ's Church will come. The number ten is often the number of God's providential completeness in His dealings upon this earth. He does just the right things in just the right ways, etc. The number three refers to the Holy Trinity, Holy Baptism, and the Baptismal character of our faith, that we were buried with Him who was raised the third day. Therefore, by the use of the number three and the number seven multiplied ten times over, this miracle teaches that Jesus is Lord, the Holy One of God, the perfect and only savior of sinners who has provided salvation to the four corners of the earth.*