

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
August 6 through August 13, 2006

Catechesis Notes for the Week — *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13). Through the Gospel we have been given a treasure which is not goods and gold, power and honor, joy and happiness of this world, and not even life on this earth, but hope, even a living and blessed hope, which will quicken us into life and blessedness in body and soul, perfectly and eternally. To this treasure the Gospel calls us, and in this treasure we are baptized. Therefore let us live this earthly life bearing in mind that we shall leave it behind, and let us stretch out after that blessed hope as 'toward the mark of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ and seek after it and await it at all times. But how long shall we wait for that blessed hope? Will it remain but a hope for ever, and will it never be fulfilled? No, he says, our blessed hope will not always remain a hope, but it will eventually be made manifest, so that we shall no longer only hope and wait for it, but what we now believe and hope for will then be made manifest in us and we shall possess with full certainty what we now await. But meanwhile we must wait for that blessed hope until it be revealed. —Luther*

Theme: The Word of Grace Sustains the Church.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Acts 20:32

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace,
which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Psalm 1 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may always hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, 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	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129
Evening	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Third Commandment and The Lord's Prayer—First Petition Expl.

What is the Third Commandment? Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.	Second Grade +
How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!	Third Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family	Second Reading
Monday	Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus—Mark 10:46-52	2 Samuel 19:1-23
Tuesday	Palm Sunday—Mark 11:1-19	1 Chronicles 21:1-30
Wednesday	the Fig Tree and the Cleansing of the Temple—Mark 11:12-19	1 Chronicles 22:1-19
Thursday	The Lesson of the fig Tree and Jesus' Authority—Mark 11:20-33	1 Chronicles 28:1-21
Friday	Look ahead to Sunday	1 Chronicles 29:1-23
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday	2 Chronicles 1:1-13

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

Collect for the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Grant to us, Lord, we implore You, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be You be enabled to live according to Your will; 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

*That the Lord would rule and govern His holy Christian Church and put an end to all schisms and causes of offense.
Dave Aumnan's father (prostate cancer); Mark Schmudlach's father (heart attack, surgery); Elsie Meyle's mother (stroke)
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

"Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"

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Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 13, 2006

Hymns: "One Thing's Needful, Lord, This Treasure" (LSB Setting) 224

2 Samuel 22:26-34: *This passage of Second Samuel records for us part of the text that Jesus used in teaching the parable of the Unjust Steward. It speaks of how the Lord Himself is more shrewd and clever than even the most shrewd and clever of men: "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down" (vs. 26-28).*

1 Corinthians 10:6-13: *St. Paul uses the example of Old Testament Israel to warn the Corinthian Christians against the danger of idolatry (false faith and worship) which evidences itself in sexual immorality, murmuring, and complaining against the Lord. The end of such idolatry is the loss of faith and eternal death. This warning against the danger of idolatry is intended to draw us to the One Man, Christ Jesus, who alone can deliver us from these dangers in the time of such temptation: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (vs. 12-13).*

Luke 16:1-13: *"The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly" (Luke 16:1-9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when the earthly fails. These are our escape in temptation (1 Cor 10:6-13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam 22:26-34).—Excerpted from the LSB hymnal project*