

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Sixth Sunday of Easter  
 May 13, 2007 through May 20, 2007

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —The Seventh and Eighth Commandments** — In each of the Commandments under the Second Table of the Law (4th through 10th Commandments), God intends to protect the good gifts that He has given. The Fourth Commandment establishes earthly authority and protects the offices of Father and Mother. The Fifth Commandment establishes the sanctity of human life. The Sixth Commandment protects the gift of marriage and sexuality. The Seventh Commandment protects personal property and goods. The Eighth Commandment protects a person's good name and reputation. The Seventh Commandment not only forbids the gross sin of stealing; it also forbids laziness and sloth through which unfaithful work robs from those who need us. The Eighth Commandment not only forbids the gross sin of lying; it also forbids all talk about our neighbor that can harm his reputation, even if it is true! Unless we have been given the authority to judge we are called to make our ears a tomb and not speak about the sins and failings of others. Each of these commandments also describes the posture of love Christians have toward their neighbor. Under the Seventh Commandment we are described as a people who seek to improve and protect our neighbor's possessions and income, even if he doesn't deserve such protection and help. Under the Eighth Commandment we are described as a people who cover the shame of our neighbor, especially when he doesn't deserve it, by defending him, speaking well of him, and explaining his failings in the kindest way. All of this flows from our faith in what the Lord has done freely in unconditional love for us.

## 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 Ascends to the Father's Right Hand.

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 5:8

God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
 in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, 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      | 93       | 97       | 98      | 99        | 47       | 96      | 92       | 93       |
| Evening      | 136, 117 | 124, 115 | 66, 116 | 8, 118    | 68, 113  | 50, 138 | 23, 114  | 136, 117 |

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Seventh and the Eighth Commandments

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| What is the Seventh Commandment?<br><b>You shall not steal.</b>                                                                                                                                                                             | Preschool +    |
| What does this mean?<br>We should fear and love God<br>so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions,<br>or get them in any dishonest way,<br>but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.                  | First Grade +  |
| What is the Eighth Commandment?<br><b>You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.</b>                                                                                                                                         | Preschool +    |
| What does this mean?<br>We should fear and love God<br>so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor,<br>betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation,<br>but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way. | Second Grade + |

## Readings for the Sixth Week of Easter

| Day       | Bible Stories for the Family and Academy                  | Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299 |                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Sunday's Gospel—John 16:23-33                             | Num. 3:1-16, 22-27                     | Use Bible Stories for Daily Prayer which are also from St. Luke |
| Monday    | Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25                        | Numbers 8:5-26                         |                                                                 |
| Tuesday   | The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20                     | Numbers 9:1-23                         |                                                                 |
| Wednesday | The Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20             | Numbers 10:11-36                       |                                                                 |
| Thursday  | Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53 | Num. 11:1-23, 31-35                    |                                                                 |
| Friday    | The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14                     | Num. 11:24-29; 12:1-16                 |                                                                 |
| Saturday  | Look ahead to Sunday's readings                           | Num. 13:1-3, 17-33                     |                                                                 |
| Sunday    | Look ahead to Sunday's readings                           | Numbers 14:1-25                        |                                                                 |

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

Collect for the Week of Easter VI:

**O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Collect for Ascension:

**Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

### 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

- Guenther and Luise Bollmeyer celebrating their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.  
 Don Weber, recuperating from leg surgery to improve circulation.  
 Else Schulz, recuperating from hip replacement surgery at Virginia Highlands Nursing Home.  
 Luise Bollmeyer, recuperating from shoulder surgery.  
 Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the institutionalized in Bulgaria, Eastern Europe, expanding to those villages near the institutions and to Bulgarians living in the U.S.

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

Hymn of Week

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (St. 1 and 5)

493

### Look forward to the Seventh Sunday of Easter—Exaudi

May 20, 2007

Hymns: 494, 266, Psalm 51:1-12, 539, 155, 639, 701, 601

Ezekiel 36:22-28, 1 Peter 4:7-14, John 15:26—16:4

The Spirit of truth testifies of Jesus, who is the Truth. But the world does not receive the Truth. It loves its own and hates those who are of the Truth. Just as Jesus was scorned, so is His church. "The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service." (Jn 15:26—16:4) Yet it is by Jesus' suffering and death that we are saved. Therefore we rejoice to share in His sufferings, that we may also share in His resurrection glory. (1 Pet 4:7-14) Through the ministry of the Spirit of truth, we are cleansed from the deceit of our idols and given a new heart and a new spirit, the heart and Spirit of Christ. (Ezek 36:22-28) He is now at work in us to have fervent, self-giving love for one another, love which covers a multitude of sins, "that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."