

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Seventh Sunday after Trinity
 July 22, 2007 through July 29, 2007

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Approaching the Sacrament —How should we come to the Lord's Table? It is precisely our need for Christ that draws us to receive His body and blood. We come with repentant hearts, believing that we are sinners and that Christ alone is our salvation. We come confessing our sins and claiming the promise of His forgiveness. We come laying aside all of the sins of others against us, forgiving them even as God in Christ has forgiven us. We come in prayer, asking for our Lord to fix our faith firmly upon the Words of Jesus: This is My body which is given for you...This is My blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. We come believing that Jesus actually gives us His true body and blood and that this heavenly food not only strengthens our faith, but with such strengthening it also produces in us the fruit of loving service to others. We come with a yearning to be freed from our sin and all the corruption that sin has brought into our lives. We come firmly believing that the Lord's body and blood is spiritual food for our earthly pilgrimage and that on the last day it will bear the ultimate fruit in the resurrection of our bodies from the dead.

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 Alone Our Souls Will Feed.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Romans 6:19b

For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Psalm 33 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit You pour the gifts of love into the hearts of Your faithful people. Grant us, Your servants, health both of mind and body that we may love You with our whole heart and with our whole strength perform those things that are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	140, 141	144	147	148	38	22	43	84
Evening	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words,

"Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,"

show us that in the Sacrament

forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

First Grade +

Readings for the Week of Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9	1 Sam. 5:1-6:3, 10-16	Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
Monday	Sadducees Question Jesus on the Resurrection—Lk 20:27-44	1 Samuel 6:19-7:17	Acts 19:1-22
Tuesday	The Widow's Two Mites—Luke 20:45-21:4	1 Samuel 8:1-22	Acts 21:15-36
Wednesday	The Signs of the End—Luke 21:5-19	1 Samuel 9:1-27	Acts 21:37-22:16
Thursday	Destruction of Jerusalem—Luke 21:20-28	1 Samuel 10:1-27	Acts 22:17-29
Friday	The Parable of the Fig Tree—Luke 21:29-38	1 Samuel 12:1-25	Acts 22:30-23:11
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	1 Samuel 13:1-18	Acts 23:12-35
Sunday	Sunday's readings	1 Sam. 14:47-15:9	Acts 24:1-23

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

Collect for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity:

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; 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; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week

Mel and Marcie Gall celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary .Sheila Stanowsky's son Jim's birthday.

Mel Gall having cataract surgery on July 25th.

Those suffering with cancer: Peggy Kievit, sister of Beth Bender; John LaSage, brother of Steve LaSage; Donna Ziegler, sister of Virjean Schmidt; Bill Kallio, good friend of Judy Jones.

Rev. Elmer Goltermann recovering at Waukesha Memorial Hospital from a heart attack.

Chris Schmidt, who will be undergoing various tests this next week.

Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the Bulgarians.

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

Hymn of Week

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

819

Look forward to the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

July 29, 2007

Hymns: 589, Psalm 26, 745, 658, 643

Jeremiah 23:16-29: Jeremiah's warning about "false shepherds" is a warning directed against the believer's unbelieving nature. Our old Adam does not want to hear the call to repentance. He wants to hear the message that all is well and that God is pleased with him. The proper preaching of the Word of God always involves the crucifying of our flesh. Only then will we be able to receive the truly sweet and life-giving Words of the Gospel.

Acts 20:27-38: In this section from the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul meets with the pastors of the congregations of Ephesus for what he believes might be the last time he sees them upon this earth. He had been the missionary and evangelist who had brought the Gospel to them. He had been their chief teacher of the faith and had sent others to them to help in the training of pastors so that their congregations would be well cared for. Now Paul bids them farewell. He speaks to them about the nature of the Church in this world. It will always be the church militant, struggling with sin, misbelief, and false doctrine from within and without. Enemies of the faith will attack them. In Paul's final word to the Ephesian pastors, he directs them to the only thing that will give them safety: "The Word of God's grace." What is the "Word of Grace"? It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul is encouraging them, never to grow tired of preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins is that which occurs again and again and again. Everyone needs this preaching of the "Word of grace" because it turns us away from self-reliance to reliance upon Christ Jesus and His death for our sins. The only safety for the church in the midst of attacks upon her faith is in this Gospel.

Matthew 7:15-23: Prophets are those who "speak forth the Word of God." Therefore, a false prophet is one who claims to be speaking God's Word but is actually speaking false doctrine. Jesus says that we will recognize false prophets by their fruits. What are the fruits of false prophets? False doctrine is the chief fruit of false prophets. False doctrine leads people away from sole reliance upon Christ to reliance upon themselves. Learning the truths of the Small Catechism is one of the chief ways by which the sheep learn to recognize a false prophet. Hearing and learning the basic truths of the Catechism guards us against the seductive lies of those who would divert our faith from the only Savior from sin, our Lord Jesus Christ.