

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
 For the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity  
 July 29, 2007 through August 5, 2007

**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 prize 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*

## 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: The Word of Grace Preserves and Sanctifies Us.

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: Acts 20:32

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 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord Jesus, abide with us in these latter days of evil, false doctrine, and unbelief. Grant to Your Church true shepherds and faithful pastors who preach Your Word in its purity, and who lead us in the way of truth. Preserve our souls from being deluded by false wisdom and the teaching of the world that are contrary to Your truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word and faith all the days of our lives; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
Evening	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Third Commandment

What is the Third Commandment?

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 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Beware of False Prophets—Matthew 7:15-23	1 Sam. 14:47—15:9	Acts 24:1-23
Monday	Paul's First Missionary Journey—Acts 12:25–13:12	1 Sam. 15:10-35	Acts 24:24–25:12
Tuesday	Paul Preaches in the Synagogue of Antioch—Acts 13:13-42	1 Sam. 16:1-23	Acts 25:13-27
Wednesday	Paul and Barnabas Preach in Iconium—Acts 13:42—14:7	1 Sam. 17:1-19	Acts 26:1-23
Thursday	Paul and Barnabas Mistaken for Greek Gods—Acts 14:8-28	1 Sam. 17:20-47	Acts 26:24–27:8
Friday	The Jerusalem Council—Acts 15:1-21	1 Sam. 17:48—18:9	Acts 27:9-26
Saturday	The Decree of the Jerusalem Council—Acts 15:22-35	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44
Sunday	Sunday's readings		

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

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity:

**Grant to us, Lord, 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 enabled by You 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; 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

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 from a heart attack.  
Helping Hands, a Lutheran ministry to the Bulgarians.

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

**Hymn of Week**

**"In God, My Faithful God"**

**745**

**Look forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

**August 5, 2007**

**Hymns:** 504, Psalm 51:1-12 (ant. vs. 18), 730, 559, 933

**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