

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Reformation

October 28 through November 4, 2007

Catechesis Notes for the Week — This week we celebrate the **Reformation and All Saints' Day**. These two feasts appropriately go together. Reformation celebrates the recovery of the Gospel, that sinners are justified (declared righteous) by grace alone, through faith, for Christ's sake. This justification is what makes all saints "saints." They are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. This is the teaching of the epistle for Reformation: "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the Law." The Gospel for Reformation reads: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" This short Gospel reading has been traditional for Reformation. It was chosen because Luther, like John the Baptist and Jesus, suffered much violence at the hands of sinful man who, in his self-righteous pride and arrogance, rejected the Gospel. Like the prophet Elijah who proclaimed God's Word of repentance and salvation in the face of Baal worshippers, so Luther was raised up by God to proclaim the justification of the sinner before God by grace alone through faith in Christ.

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 Jesus Is Our Victorious Champion!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Psalm 46 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty God, grant us a steadfast faith in Jesus Christ, a cheerful hope in Your mercy, and a sincere love for You and one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 Creed—the Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?

Preschool +

And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...

What does this mean?

First Grade +

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary,
is my Lord,
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

That I may be His own
And live under Him in His kingdom
And serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

Readings for the Week of Reformation

| Day | Bible Stories for the Family and Academy | Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299 | |
|-----------|--|--|----------------|
| Sunday | "The Kingdom of Heaven Suffers Violence—Matt. 11:12-15 | Deut. 30:1-20 | Matt. 19:1-15 |
| Monday | Abram Rescues Lot/Melchizedek—Gen. 14:8-23 | Deut. 31:1-29 | Matt. 19:16-30 |
| Tuesday | No School- Faculty Inservice | Deut. 31:30–32:27 | Matt. 20:1-16 |
| Wednesday | God's Covenant...the Promise of a Son—Gen. 15:1-6 | Deut. 32:28-52 | Matt. 20:17-34 |
| Thursday | Hagar and Ishmael—Genesis 16:1-16 | Deut. 34:1-12 | Matt. 21:1-22 |
| Friday | Abram's and Sarai's Name Change—Genesis 17:1-27 | Jer. 1:1-19 | Matt. 21:23-46 |
| Saturday | Look ahead to Sunday's readings | Jer. 3:6–4:2 | Matt. 22:1-22 |
| Sunday | Look ahead to Sunday's readings | Jer. 5:1-19 | Matt. 22:23-46 |

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

Collect for the Sunday of the Reformation:

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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

Partner Lutheran Churches and Missions around the world

*Larry and Sharon Martin celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary
and son Mike and daughter-in-law Jen's 1st wedding anniversary.*

Audrey Steinhilb, hospitalized in Green Bay following an automobile accident

Jan Mauritz undergoing therapy at Linden Grove Care Center

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

Hymn of Week

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (st. 1 and 2)

656

Look forward to the Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity

November 4, 2007

Hymns: 646, 611, 559, 815

Micah 6:6-8: *"To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" is what the Lord says is good. It is a description of faith in Christ. To know Christ is to love mercy. To walk humbly with your God is to trust in Jesus by confessing one's sin and clinging to His forgiveness. To love mercy is to believe in it as the most important gift we have from God through Christ.*

Philippians 1:3-11: *Paul speaks to the Philippians in thanksgiving to God for their "fellowship in the Gospel" with him. To have "fellowship in the Gospel" is to share the common faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins by grace alone and not by the works of the Law. This "fellowship in the Gospel" is characterized by the life of mercy and unconditional love toward brothers and sisters within the household of faith that covers their sin with forgiveness that is freely and unbegrudgingly given.*

Matthew 18:21-35: *The parable of the Unmerciful Servant teaches us that in the death of His Son, God has forgiven us a debt that we could not pay. This parable teaches the baptized that forgiveness for those who trespass against us flows from faith in Christ's undeserved forgiveness, and that the refusal to forgive those who trespass against us is a denial of faith in Christ and a rejection of His forgiveness. He forgives us freely by the merits of Jesus alone, that we might live in that free gift of forgiveness especially toward those who have sinned against us. Christians should be taught to expect such upheaval from within and without. As it was in the days of John the Baptist when multitudes were being brought to faith, so it will be in our own day.*