

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Feast of the Holy Trinity
May 18, 2008 through May 25, 2008*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Table of Duties for Youth — “Submission” and “humility” are not terms that any of us naturally gravitate toward. The sinful flesh wants to submit to no one and is filled with arrogance and pride. If the sinful flesh doesn’t get its way, it rebels. From where does the will to “submit” and “humble one’s self” come? It comes from faith in the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus submitted Himself as a young man, because He trusted in His Father who promised to do good through His submission. He humbled Himself to the point of the death of the cross, because He trusted His Father to do good through His suffering. When youth are admonished to submit to their elders and humble themselves before them, they are really being invited to trust God to do them good in their office as youth, even though they may have to endure things that they don’t agree with our enjoy. The way of faith is always the way of deference toward others. This we learn to believe through the faithful reception of the Gospel and Sacrament of our Lord.

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: Blessed Be the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: *Philippians 1:21*

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Psalm 8 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, the Creator and Savior of the world, You have made Yourself known in the work of man’s redemption as the mystery of the ever adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One and One in Three; we beseech You, reveal in us the full power of this faith into which we have been planted by Baptism, that being born of water and of the Spirit we may, by a life of holiness, be formed into Your image here and rise to Your blissful presence hereafter, there to join with the song of the seraphim in praising You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

The Catechism: The Table of Duties— To Employers and Supervisors; To Youth

<p>What does God’s Word say to Employers and Supervisors? Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.</p>	<p>Third Grade + Ephesians 6:9</p>
<p>What does God’s Word say to Youth? Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."</p>	<p>First Grade + 1 Peter 5:5</p>
<p>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.</p>	<p>Second Grade + 1 Peter 5:6</p>

Readings for the Week of the Feast of the Holy Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20	Num. 35:9-30	Luke 24:28-53
Monday	Love Your Enemies—Matthew 5:38-48	Song 1:1-2:7	John 5:1-18
Tuesday	The Lord’s Prayer—Matthew 6:1-18	Song 2:8-3:11	John 5:19-29
Wednesday	Lay Up for Yourselves Treasure in Heaven—Mt 6:19-34	Song 4:1-5:1	John 5:30-47
Thursday	Jesus Is the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:1-14	Song 5:2-6:3	John 6:1-21
Friday	The Wise Man Builds His House on the Rock—Mt 7:15-29	Song 6:4-7:5	John 6:22-40
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Song 7:6-8:14	John 6:41-59
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Eccl. 1:1-18	John 6:60-71

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

Collect for the Week of the Feast of the Holy Spirit:

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, 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

Mark and Julie Goltermann celebrating their 16th wedding anniversary.

Deacon Gatchell's nephew Nathan recuperating from brain surgery.

Chris Schmidt, who has returned home from the hospital.

Lyle Sturtz, and Dave Aumann's father in hospice care.

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

Hymn of Week

"Holy, Holy, Holy" (Stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the First Sunday after Trinity

May 25, 2008

Hymns: 819, 732, 820, 869

Isaiah 49:8-16a: *The prophet Isaiah speaks words of comfort to the faithful in their struggle with sin, weakness, and persecution. "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You." Isaiah's words declare what is the Christian's hope: "They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them."*

Romans 1:8-17: *Paul thanks God for his fellowship in the Gospel with the Christian Church at Rome whom he longs to see face to face for their mutual encouragement. He speaks to them with complete confidence, even though He is threatened with persecution, because he has and believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God for salvation. If one has the Gospel of God's forgiveness and salvation in Christ, then one lacks nothing.*

Matthew 6:24-34: *As Christians, we quite properly speak of the ongoing battle between the Old Adam of unbelief and the New man of faith that is being waged in the heart of every Christian. Yet this battle between the Spirit and the flesh does not mean that the Christian has no peace or that the Christian is locked up in a state of perpetual despair. Quite to the contrary, this is why Jesus says, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." Finally, in the day to day battle with the flesh, our faith must come to rest not at all in ourselves or the things of this world but in Christ and in the promises of the Gospel. As long as we attempt to serve both masters, the spirit and the flesh, we will have no peace in the battle. Faith in Jesus and in His free gift of righteousness that covers our sin is where our faith rests and where we are given freedom from anxiety over food, drink, and clothing. Since the Lord has given us the greater gifts of His body and blood in the Lord's Supper through which we have eternal communion with God in the forgiveness of sins and, since He has clothed us with His own righteousness in Holy Baptism so that we, declared completely righteous and lack nothing, how will He not also give us the lesser things that sustain body and life in this world. "Will He not clothe and feed you of little faith?" Of course He will. Therefore, in our ongoing struggle with the Old Adam within we continue to pursue or "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" and God's peace will teach us to be content with whatever we have.*