

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Second Sunday after Pentecost
 May 25, 2008 through June 1, 2008

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Table of Duties—To Widows and To Everyone—When someone loses a spouse, what should they do? Whenever we lose any of God’s good gifts, the devil tempts us to fill the void with other things that not only can’t satisfy, but which may actually be sinful and a sign of mistrust of God. This is what the Scriptures refer to as “living for pleasure.” Instead, in the face of losses we are called to move even closer to Christ and His Word, putting our hope and confidence in the Lord who will fill the void of our lives with Himself. Attendance at Divine Service, catechesis, and the mutual conversation and consolation of Christian brothers and sisters is critically important. This leads us to the last section of the Table of Duties: **To Everyone:** It is our common faith in Christ and the grace of God that unites us in love for one another, even as Christ loved us. The source of true fulfillment is not in living for one’s self, but in giving of ourselves to one another out of our love for 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: Seek First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 14:2-3

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; If it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; That where I am. There you may be also.

Psalm 115 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful God and Father, teach us at all times the true humility of faith, that we might look to You for all things with complete confidence and that we might rejoice and live in the freedom of Your salvation in Christ, 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	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

The Catechism: The Table of Duties— To Widows and To Everyone

What does God’s Word say to Widows? The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.	Third Grade + 1 Timothy 5:5
But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.	Fourth Grade + 1 Timothy 5:6
What does God’s Word say to Everyone? The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”	First Grade + Romans 13:9
I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.	Second Grade + 1 Timothy 2:1

Readings for the Week of the Second Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	You Cannot Serve God and Mammon—Matthew 6:24-34	Ecc. 1:1-18	John 6:60-71
Monday	Memorial Day—No School	Ecc. 2:1-26	John 7:1-13
Tuesday	Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Matthew 8:1-4	Ecc. 3:1-22	John 7:14-31
Wednesday	Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant—Matthew 8:5-13	Ecc. 4:1-16	John 7:32-53
Thursday	Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law—Matthew 8:14-22	Ecc. 5:1-20	John 8:1-20
Friday	Jesus Stills the Storm—Mt. 8:23-27 (Last Day of School)	Ecc. 6:1-7:10	John 8:21-38
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Ecc. 7:11-29	John 8:39-59
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Ecc. 8:1-17	John 9:1-23

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

Collect for the Week of the Second Sunday after Pentecost:

Eternal God, You counsel us not to be anxious about earthly things. Keep alive in us a proper yearning for those heavenly treasures awaiting all who trust in Your mercy, that we may daily rejoice in Your salvation and serve You with constant devotion; 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

- Allan and Jeannine Gabel celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary.*
Dorothy Gutknecht hospitalized at Elmbrook Hospital.
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

"Behold a Host, Arrayed in White" (Stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 1, 2008

Hymns: 865, 768, 645, 647

Deut. 11:18-21, 26-28: *Catechesis involves passing on the language of our holy faith to the next generation of Christians. God's language, His commandments and His promises of salvation, are those words by which faith is created and sustained and by which we live. The inculcation of God's language begins at the very earliest ages, so that God's Word shapes and forms our minds and hearts in Christ Jesus: "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand ... You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*

Romans 3:21-28: *The "righteousness of God" is God's offering up of His Son unto death upon the cross for us. Jesus death fully atoned for the sin of the whole world by fulfilling the Law in a way that sinful man never could. He suffered the condemnation of the sinner that the Law demanded for us. In His sacrifice He loved His Father and us so completely that He made the ultimate sacrifice for us, bearing all our sin and punishment in His death. This is a "higher righteousness" or the "righteousness apart from the Law," because it is based upon His works and not ours. St. Paul is careful to explain that all the Old Testament Scriptures bear witness to this righteousness, so that we forsake our own righteousness according to the Law and cling to Christ alone.*

Matthew 7:15-29: *The Word of God, faithful preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, is at the center of the Church's life. Apart from faithful preaching, the Church cannot exist and sinners cannot be brought to faith and sustained in the faith. This is why Jesus warns His Church about false prophets who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are savage wolves. He is warning His Church about false preachers and false doctrine that sounds good, but is deadly because it undermines true faith in Christ. Pure doctrine is the "good fruit" from the "good tree." It is the "rock" upon which the Church is built because it proclaims Jesus Christ and Him crucified as the only "Rock" of our salvation and the foundation of our faith and life. Jesus promises, "Whoever hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock ... it did not fall because it was founded upon the Rock"*