

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 8, 2008 through June 15, 2008*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Jesus, the Great Physician—*In this week’s Gospel reading, Jesus portrays Himself as the Physician of the soul. This image is very important in helping us understand the essence of the Gospel and what is at the heart of Jesus’ work. Jesus is not a motivational speaker, a coach, or a self-help guru who gives you advice on how to be successful. Jesus is our Savior. Sin is not a failure to live up to your potential; it is a sickness and a disease from which we are powerless to save ourselves. We should, therefore, see the Church as a hospital for sinners. The Physician is Jesus. He knows what we need. The medicine is His grace and forgiveness that He administers to us through His preached Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. This medicine brings true healing for the soul and often the body and life as it transforms us from within. It is important for the Christian to know that there will never be a time in this life in which we will no longer need our great Physician or the medicine of His Gospel. We will always need Him and the forgiveness and mercy of God that only He can bring.*

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: I Desire Mercy and not Sacrifice.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 9:12a-13

**“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick,
But go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.
For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”**

Psalm 119:65-72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: We pray You, O Lord, to keep our tongues from evil and our lips from speaking deceit, that as Your holy angels continuously sing praises to You in heaven, so may we at all times glorify You on earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92
Evening	79	81	83	86	87	90	93	94

The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Preschool +

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

First Grade +

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Second Grade +

Readings for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Matthew the Tax Collector Is Called—Matthew 9:9-13	Prov. 4:1-27	John 12:1-19
Monday	The Promise of Persecution—Matthew 10:16-31	Prov. 5:1-23	John 12:20-36a
Tuesday	Confessing Christ Before Men—Matthew 10:32—11:1	Prov. 8:1-21	John 12:36b-50
Wednesday	John the Baptist Sends Disciples to Jesus—Matthew 11:2-19	Prov. 8:22-36	John 13:1-20
Thursday	Jesus Preaches Repentance and Faith—Matthew 11:20-30	Prov. 9:1-18	John 13:21-38
Friday	Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath—Matthew 12:1-8	Prov. 10:1-23	John 14:1-17
Saturday	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath—Matthew 12:9-21	Prov. 13:1-25	John 14:18-31
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Prov. 14:1-27	John 15:1-11

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

Collect for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, 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

- Pete and Brenda Greschner celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary.*
- Jim and Mary Nitzsche celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary.*
- Rev. Edwin and Erma Suelflow celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.*
- Rudy and Gay Heling celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary*
- Chris Schmidt having surgery on his corrated artery.*
- The family of Julie Goltermann as they mourn the death of Julie's mother, Dorothy Gutknecht.*
- Don Weber, recovering slowly from surgery and his recent hospitalization.*
- Lyle Sturtz, and Dave Aumann's father Donald in hospice care.*

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

Hymn of Week

"Let Me Be Thine Forever"

689

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 15, 2008

Hymns: 856, 571, 824, 829

Exodus 19:2-8; Romans 5:6-15; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20)

On the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, the Holy Gospel reading highlights Jesus' ministry of compassion for sinners who were spiritually "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus' ministry did not end with His death and resurrection; He appointed the Apostles to carry on His ministry and the Apostles in turn ordained men to carry on the ministry after their deaths. This week's Gospel highlights that Jesus' ministry is a fulfillment of the promise of the Gospel made to Abraham that Salvation was for Gentiles and Samaritans, as well as "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." For this reason, the Church's ministry continues to proclaim salvation to all people, without distinction, to the ends of the earth. As we are called by grace alone to salvation in Christ, so we freely proclaim the Gospel without distinction to all sinners. "Freely you have received, freely give."