

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the third week after Trinity
(July 3rd – July 9th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

Daily Prayers – Divine Service (Part 1)

This Week's Catechetical Theme: Divine Service (Part 1)

This summer our focus has been on Luther's pattern of prayer given in the Small Catechism. For the rest of the summer, we'll examine and consider the gifts which the Lord gives to His people in the Divine Service. It is all too common for us to think about worship primarily from the perspective of what we do – prayer, praise, thanksgiving, etc. But in reality, what is primary in the Divine Service is the Lord giving good gifts to us! He acts in mercy, bestowing upon us the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Our prayer, praise, and thanksgiving is simply the joyful response of having received the Lord's gifts as He gives them in the Divine Service. The Lord bless your devotion!

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: The Divine Service (The Mass)

From the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV

Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass*. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved, except that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German hymns. These have been added to teach the people. For ceremonies are needed for this reason alone, that the uneducated be taught what they need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1-3).

From the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV (The Mass)

At the outset, we must again make this preliminary statement: we do not abolish the Mass, but religiously keep and defend it. Masses are celebrated among us every Lord's Day and on the other festivals. The Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other such things (AP XXIV, 1).

**The Mass is the term used to describe the liturgy of the Divine Service, which include both the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament.*

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin Luke 15:1-10		Psalm 151
Monday	The Son Came to Serve Matthew 20:20-28	2 Thessalonians 1	Psalm 152
Tuesday	I Will Give You Rest Matthew 11:25-30	2 Thessalonians 2	Psalm 153
Wednesday	Where Two or Three Are Gathered Matthew 18:15-20	2 Thessalonians 3	Psalm 154
Thursday	Not Neglecting to Meet Together Hebrews 10:19-25	1 Timothy 1	Psalm 155
Friday	The Fellowship of Believers Acts 2:42-47	1 Timothy 2	Psalm 156
Saturday	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 8:18-23	Psalm 157

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon – Fri:** Use the following questions to initiate discussion about each day's reading: 1) What does the day's passage reveal about the Lord's work? 2) What gifts does the passage reveal the Lord giving? 3) How does the passage encourage the faithful toward community? 4) What is the benefit of gathering together? 5) What comfort is there to draw from the day's passage? **Sat:** In Preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Jesus says,] "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
(Matthew 18:20)

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Church: Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **For Those Who are Expecting:** Corinne Bradley, Shaelyn Huels (Caroline & Randy Tate's daughter). **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Linda Nehrt (Eddie & Verdell Hermsmeyer's niece), Barb Mueller, Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Opal Jones, Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Elbert Brink. **Those in Need of Healing:** Carolyn Freund, Clare Jones (granddaughter of Mike & Opal Jones). **Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Melvin & Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene

Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Adam Eggerman (7/3), Thomas Albers (7/5), William Jennings (7/6), Cindy Hoffmann, Betty Sprehe (7/8), Lois Michael (7/9).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive (LSB 609)