

**The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the fifth week after Trinity  
(July 17<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>)*

**CATECHETICAL THEME:**

*Prayer in the Divine Service*

**This Week’s Catechetical Theme: The Gospel in the Liturgy**

Over the past couple weeks, we've heard that the Lord comes to serve us in the Divine Service. Yet, the Lord's service to us calls forth our service - in sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to Him and in loving service to one another. We respond not only with hymns and songs, but also with prayer. The Divine Service is filled with the faithful response of the people of God in prayer - The Kyrie, the Collect of the Day, the Prayer of the Church, the Lord’s Prayer, the Post-Communion Collect. This week, as we consider the prayers included in the Divine Service, we consider those portions of the Scriptures which inform us, and teach us how we are to pray. The Lord bless your time of 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: From the Large Catechism**

We pray, therefore, and encourage everyone most diligently to take this counsel to heart and by no means to despise our prayer. For up to now it has been taught in the devil’s name that no one should think about these things. People thought it was enough to have done the act of praying, whether God would hear it or not. But that is staking prayer on a risk and murmuring it at a venture; therefore, it is a lost prayer. For we let thoughts like these lead us astray and stop us: “I am not holy or worthy enough. If I were as godly and holy as St. Peter or St. Paul, then I would pray.” But put such thoughts far away...You should say, “My prayer is as precious, holy, and pleasing to God as that of St. Paul or of the most holy saints. ...God does not consider prayer because of the person, but because of His Word and obedience to it. For I rest my prayer on the same commandment on which the saints rest their prayer (LC III, 14-16).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Makes Fishers of Men Luke 5:1-11		Psalm 165
Monday	The Kyrie Psalm 51:1; 123:3; Mark 10:47-48	2 Timothy 2	Psalm 166
Tuesday	The Gloria in Excelsis Luke 2:1-14; John 1:29	2 Timothy 3	Psalm 167

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The Sanctus Isaiah 6:1-7; Matthew 21:1-9</b>	<b>2 Timothy 4</b>	<b>Psalm 168</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>The Agnus Dei John 1:29-37</b>	<b>Titus 1</b>	<b>Psalm 169</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>The Nunc Dimittis Luke 2:25-35</b>	<b>Titus 2</b>	<b>Psalm 170</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-17</b>	<b>Romans 6:1-11</b>	<b>Psalm 171</b>

### 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 reading teach us about prayer? 2) How might the day's reading encourage us to pray? 3) What comfort is given in the day's reading? 4) Does the reading encourage us to believe that our prayers will be heard? 5) Is there anything about the reading that is challenging, or difficult? **Sat:** In Preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**Our Church:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Preschool. **For Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends of Savanna and Brooke-Lynn Broughton. **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:** Lynn Michael, Opal Jones, Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Elbert Brink. **Those in Need of Healing:** Mike Jones, Roger Zimmermann, Roger & Marilyn Sullens (Linda Reckling's father & mother), 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:** Billie Yardley (7/18), Tracy Schilling (7/21), Alayna French, Julie Nolte (7/22), Candy Frazier (7/23).

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

**Hymn of the Week:** "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake (LSB 688)