

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following
The Third Sunday of Easter (Misericordias Domini) (April 14- April 20th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

What Sins Should We Confess?

This Week's Catechetical Theme:

What are the benefits of such eating and drinking?

When a Christian confesses his sins, that person is simply being faithful. The Christian is agreeing with the Law of God spoken against his own thoughts, words, actions or desires. If he were to deny these sins, he would be denying the truth, as Holy Scripture plainly teaches: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). The life of a Christian is a life of confession.

That a Christian confesses he is a sinner is not new to most of us. We begin each and every Divine Service with a public confession of sins, after all. But what might be new to us, or might challenge us, is to confess which sins we have committed. Consider your stations in life according to the Ten Commandments. How have you sinned against God, your spouse, your child, a parent, friend, colleague, or some other neighbor? Confessing that you're a sinner is one thing, but to know what sins you have to confess requires that we examine our lives in comparison to the Law of God—and in this way the Law of God serves as a mirror. This week's catechetical material will instruct us accordingly. God 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:

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
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Sunday	I Am the Good Shepherd John 10:11-16		Psalm 24
Monday	Whoever Confesses and Forsakes Proverbs 28:13	1 Chronicles 21	Psalm 25
Tuesday	God Is Light 1 John 1:5-9	1 Chronicles 22	Psalm 26
Wednesday	Nathan Absolves David 2 Samuel 11:1-12:15	1 Chronicles 23	Psalm 27
Thursday	First Be Reconciled Matthew 5:23-24	1 Chronicles 24	Psalm 28
Friday	If He Has Committed Sins... James 5:13-16	1 Chronicles 25	Psalm 29
Saturday	Isaiah 40:25-31	1 John 3:1-3	Psalm 30

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does this passage teach us to do with our sins? What will then be received? **Tues** What does this passage teach us to do with our sins? What does God promise to give? **Wed:** Which commandments had David sinned against? How did he become aware of his sin? Did he deny his sin? What did he receive when he confessed his sin? **Thurs:** What does this passage teach us to do when we have sinned against another person? **Fri:** What does this passage teach you to give to a person who confesses his or her sin to you? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Circuit Vacancies: Faith Lutheran (Flora), Trinity Lutheran (Iuka), Faith Lutheran (Mt. Vernon), Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Vanessa Hanke & Shelby Maschhoff. **For Those Who Mourn the Death of:** Betty Sprehe, Nelson Arrowsmith (Father of Tina Golding). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Matt Nolte, Norma Rueter, and Carolyn Freund. **For Those Who Are Undergoing Surgery:** Mike Eggermann, and Dawna Wander (Friend of Dave Childress). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments/Testing:** Eli Kuper, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Baptismal Birthday:** Claire Eggermann (4/15), Grant Brinkmann (4/16), Marsha Milano, Marla Corry, Michael Brinkmann (4/17), Glen Edwards, Don Will, Sr. (4/18), Marli Kleiboeker (4/20). **Anniversaries:** Leonard & Pat Kleiboeker (4/19)

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

Hymn of the Month: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness (LSB 467)