

The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer For the Week of the 7th Sunday after Pentecost July 7 through July 13

- Invocation make the sign of the cross and say...
 In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



Morning or Evening Prayer

Morning. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Mealtime Blessing and then afterwards Returning Thanks

Blessing before meal

"The eyes of all look to You, [O LORD,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Ps. 145: 15–16)

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Returning Thanks after meal "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love." (Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen



Pray the Psalms

General Wk 4	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	108, 150	62, 145	12, 146	96, 147:1-12	116, 147:13- 21	84, 148	63, 149
Evening	66, 23	73, 9	36, 7	132, 134	26, 130	25, 40	138, 98



Verse of the Week: Mark 6:13

Alleluia. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. Alleluia.



Daily Lectionary Readings

SundayNumbers 21:4-9, 21-35: Acts 17:(12-21) 22-34; Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday.....Numbers 22:21-38; Romans 7:1-12; Matthew 21:23-32

Wednesday.... Numbers 22:41--23:12; Romans 7:13-25; Matthew 21:33-46

Thursday Numbers 23:11-26; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 22:1-14

Friday......Numbers 24:1-13; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 22:15-22

Saturday......Numbers 24:12-25; Romans 8:18-25; Matthew 22:23-40



The Collect for the Week

Sundays after Pentecost, Proper 9 O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through You Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



Catechism Portion for the Week

Confession And Absolution the First Question "What is the 'Office of the Keys'?"

– By His death on the cross, Christ accomplished our salvation, providing forgiveness of sins for the entire world. And yet, it is through His good news, the Gospel, being made known to me that I can benefit from what He accomplished for me. The Gospel, specifically the promise of forgiveness won on the cross by Christ, is received by faith, when by the help of God I believe and trust what the Gospel conveys. In considering how we come to know that our sins are forgiven before God in heaven we learn in Scripture of the Office of the Keys. This is the authority entrusted to the Church, first to the Apostles, to forgive the sins of those who repent. This declaration of forgiveness of sins is then passed down to appointed Ministers of Word and Sacrament, often called Pastors. This authority is most clearly presented in John 20:22-23; Matthew 18:18; and Matthew 16:19. As Christians, we confess that Jesus sends His servants to proclaim the good news, forgiving the sins of all who repent and withholding forgiveness from those who insist on remaining in their sins.



Portion of the Catechism and Luther's Explanation

1 What is the "Office of the Keys"?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.



Prayer Based on the Portion of the Catechism

Prayer based on Confession and Absolution the Question "What is the 'Office of the Keys'?" Heavenly Father, You delivered Your Son for our offenses and raised Him for our justification. Grant that we may also trust in the word of forgiveness which You have given Your pastors to proclaim, that clinging to Your good and gracious promises, we might be brought to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 321]



Intercessory Prayer

- Pam Benrud (breast cancer)

- Haley Hellerud (pneumonia)
- ★ Kathy Schmitz (medical testing)



Hymn of the Week and Next Sunday's Lessons

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light: *stnz 1* O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night; Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice. *stnz 2* Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's maze; Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds. *stnz 3* O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way! Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav'nly rest. *stnz 4* Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'rers to Your fold. Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart, *stnz 5* That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n. Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

For July 14, 2024, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 10): Amos 7:7-5 The Lord commands Amos, "Go, prophesy to My people Israel."; Psalm 85:(1-7), 8-13 "Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him."; Ephesians 1:3-14 Having believed, you were marked with a seal.; Mark 6:14-29 The death of John the Baptist