

*For the week of The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14th, through May 20th, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Lutheran Confessions” The next five articles of the Book of Concord discuss the Means of Grace that the Spirit uses to create faith and bring us into His Church.

Article IX: Baptism “Concerning Baptism, our churches teach that Baptism is necessary for salvation and that God’s grace is offered through Baptism. They teach that children are to be baptized. Being offered to God through Baptism, they are received into God’s grace.” When our confessions speak of Baptism as necessary, they speak generally. Baptism is not an optional part of the faith. The Church cannot set Baptism aside as unimportant. It is a means through which God has attached His promise, and therefore we are to cherish it. Being a work of God and not of man, this promise, as Peter proclaims in Acts 2, includes children.

The Confessions are NOT applying the necessity of Baptism to individuals though. We do not confess or believe that if a person is not baptized then they are not saved.

Article X: The Lord’s Supper “Our churches teach that the body and blood of Christ are truly present and distributed to those who eat the Lord’s Supper. They reject those who teach otherwise.”

Article XI: Confession “Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in the churches, although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For according to the Psalm, it is impossible. ‘Who can discern his errors?’” Private confession and absolution is not only retained, it is encouraged!

Article XII: Repentance This article is longer, but it confesses that there is forgiveness for all who return to repentance. Repentance has two parts: contrition, which brings someone to confess their sins, and faith, which receives the forgiveness given. “Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruit of repentance. The Confessions then reject a variety of false teachings, including “once saved, always saved,” that we can reach a state of sinlessness in this life, those who refuse to offer forgiveness, and that we can earn forgiveness.

Article XIII: The Use of the Sacraments “Our churches teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but even more, to be signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us. They were instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Therefore, we must use the Sacraments in such a way that faith, which believes the promises offered and set forth through the Sacraments, is increased.

Therefore, they condemn those who teach that the Sacraments justify simply by the act of doing them.” They condemn those who do not teach that faith, which believes that sins are forgiven, is required in the use of the Sacraments.

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.*

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: JOHN 16:33B

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

PSALM 66:8-20 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

Thanks and praise be unto You, God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan, and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	116, 117	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	120, 121	124, 125	129, 130, 131
Evening	118	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	122, 123	126, 127, 128	132, 133

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	John 14:15-21	
Monday	The Great Commission to Baptize and Teach the Nations—Matthew 28:16-20	Proverbs 26:1-28
Tuesday	St. Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20	Proverbs 27:1-27
Wednesday	Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53	Proverbs 28:1-28
Thursday	The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14	Proverbs 29:1-27
Friday	The Wise Man Builds His House on the Rock—Matthew 7:15-29	Proverbs 30:1-33
Saturday	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

CATECHISM — Returning Thanks —

Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner, reverently and with folded hands say:

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)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

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.

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Prayer for the Unity of Faith

O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Week

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *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:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *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:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, 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:** *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:** *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

Our Congregation: Aaron Williams; Dick & Anita Williams; Laura Williams; Kirk & Lavonne Wright; Marilyn Zimmerman

Baptismal Birthdays: Nick Adams; Todd Browning; Sydney Dwyer; Destiny Ellis; Shirley Meloche; Nathaniel Hassler; Madison Lee; Bradley Livingston; Mya Casimir; Joe Oakes; Fay Bryan; Christophor Smith

Wedding Anniversaries: Kay & Rich Gerdes

Members of the Congregation: Thresa; Janet; Claire

Friends of our Congregation: Gloria, Russell; John,; Vernon; Jeff; Lenora; Emmet

Other:

Our Circuit:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Vacant

Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Vacant

Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF

Jim Bradshaw, Education and Youth

Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Our Community: City of Pomona; City of Williamsburg; USD 287

Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly

Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

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.

—or—

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.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

"The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns"

532

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| 1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow. | 4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heav'n. |
| 2 The highest place that heav'n affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav'n's eternal Light; | 5 They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The myst'ry of His love. |
| 3 The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know. | 6 The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme. |

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855 Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "Seventh Sunday of Easter"

May 21, 2023

Service Hymns: 525 | 493 | 539 | 664 | 570 | 631 | 662 | 547

Readings: Acts 1:12-26 | 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11 | John 17:1-11

On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus prayed for His apostles and His Church on earth. "The hour" had come when the Father would glorify His Son by the cross (John 17:1). Through the shedding of His blood, He would bring forgiveness for the sins of the world, and in His resurrection and ascension He would unite all Christians with the Father "that they may be one" with God (John 17:11). He manifested His name to the apostles and gave them the words of the Father to speak in His name. The apostolic witness of His cross and resurrection (Acts 1:21–22) gathers disciples together "with one accord" into the one Body of Christ (Acts 1:14). "Devoting themselves to prayer," they wait upon the Lord in "the upper room" (Acts 1:13–14), the place of His Holy Supper. Strengthened by the Gospel, Christians bear the cross of Christ in patience and peace, rejoicing to share in His suffering, in order that they "may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed" (1 Peter 4:13).

