

*For the week of The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>, through July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

### ***Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lutheran Confessions, Article XXVII: Monastic Vows***

In this article, the Lutheran Reformers trace the history of monastic life. The monasteries began as free associations. People came together in them for learning theology and other disciplines. Over time they became places young men and women were sent to make promises before they could fully understand what they were committing themselves to. Their consciences were bound by vows God Himself never decreed. Monasticism became a way of life and was placed high above every other kind of life ordained by God.

And so the Lutheran Reformers argue that no monastic vow should ever be able to supersede the Word and institution of God. A primary examples they gave was that monks should be allowed to marry. God Himself instituted marriage, commends it, and even commanded it for the sake of sexual purity. How can a monastic vow, therefore, overturn God's command in the case of someone who is unable to remain chaste without marriage? As the reformers argue, forbidding them from marrying only leads to controversy and scandal. All the more, the reformers argue, when they have young men and women making such vows before they can even understand the weight of the vows they are making, especially in the cases when such vows are forced upon these young men and women.

Finally, the reformers argue again that human-created works, such as these monastic vows, should not be taught as to have any bearing or weight before God. Anything that God does not command, institute, or instruct should not be said to earn God's favor. Instead, we should always teach that righteousness comes by faith to those that believe that they are received by God into grace for Christ's sake. Anything that says that we earn or merit favor or forgiveness by the things we do distracts from the glory and grace of Christ and the Gospel.

### ***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: MATTHEW 10:39***

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

#### ***PSALM 119:153-160 or the appointed daily psalms***

##### ***Prayer on the Psalm***

*Lord God, who has commanded us to pray, grant us that Spirit of prayer, who alone can teach us how to bring our petitions before You in acceptable manner. Cause Your Spirit to guide us, that we seek not self-chosen words after our own thoughts, but continue in Your Word that we may be found Your children indeed. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	97, 98	101	103	105	107	108, 110	113, 114	116, 117
Evening	99, 100	102	104	106	109	111, 112	115	118

## BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 10:34-42	
Monday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36	Amos 4:6-5:17
Tuesday	Out of Man's Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20	Amos 5:18-6:14
Wednesday	A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus' Word—Matthew 15:21-31	Amos 7:1-17
Thursday	The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39	Amos 8:1-9:15
Friday	The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12	Obadiah 1-21
Saturday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Romans 7:14-25a

## CATECHISM — Basic Questions

### What is the Bible?

The Bible gathers together the writings of God's chosen prophets and apostles over a period of more than a thousand years. Through the Holy Spirit, God Himself gave these writers the thoughts and words they recorded, such that the Bible *is* God's Word. For this reason, the Scriptures are both infallible and inerrant. Holy Scripture is therefore entirely reliable and gives us everything we need to know and believe for Christian faith and life.

Hebrews 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21

### Do we use human reason to understand the Bible?

Yes, but human reason must be used within appropriate limits, as a servant of the text. Because Scripture is given in human language, to read and rightly understand what it says, we must humbly use reason in such matters as context, grammar, and logic. To understand the Bible's meaning properly, the guidance of the Holy Spirit is essential. Because the Bible is God's Word and, unlike all other books, is inspired and inerrant, it is wrong to use human reason to question or deny its truthfulness.

Psalms 119:73; Matthew 22:37; Acts 17:11; Romans 3:4; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 2:8; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 3:15-16

## DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

### DAILY PRAYER

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

### **Collect of the Week**

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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:** Glenn Daniel; Bryan & Ginger Davis, Alexis, Karley; Jack & Lisa Davis; Jean & Jay Davis; Linda & Jon Davis

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Emma Janssen; Grace Lines; Kevin Adams; Luanne Baker; Brooks Perry

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Ken & Kathleen Butel; Alan & Rachel Barraza

**Members of the Congregation:** Barb; Xander; Bill; Janet; Terry; Dorothy

**Friends of our Congregation:** Todd; Jane; Gloria

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth*

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; 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 Ottawa; Ottawa University; Neosho Community College

**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

#### "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

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| 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,<br>Follow His example pure,<br>Through a world that would deceive us<br>And to sin our spirits lure.<br>Onward in His footsteps treading,<br>Pilgrims here, our home above,<br>Full of faith and hope and love,<br>Let us do the Father's bidding.<br>Faithful Lord, with me abide;<br>I shall follow where You guide.  | 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.<br>Since by death He conquered death,<br>He will free us from destruction,<br>Give to us immortal breath.<br>Let us mortify all passion<br>That would lead us into sin;<br>And the grave that shuts us in<br>Shall but prove the gate to heaven.<br>Jesus, here with You I die,<br>There to live with You on high. |
| 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus<br>And with patience bear our cross.<br>Joy will follow all our sadness;<br>Where He is, there is no loss.<br>Though today we sow no laughter,<br>We shall reap celestial joy;<br>All discomforts that annoy<br>Shall give way to mirth hereafter.<br>Jesus, here I share Your woe;<br>Help me there Your joy to know. | 4 Let us also live with Jesus.<br>He has risen from the dead<br>That to life we may awaken.<br>Jesus, You are now our head.<br>We are Your own living members;<br>Where You live, there we shall be<br>In Your presence constantly,<br>Living there with You forever.<br>Jesus, let me faithful be,<br>Life eternal grant to me.                   |

#### Looking Forward to "The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost"

July 9, 2023

**Readings:** Zechariah 9:9-12 | Romans 7:14-25a | Matthew 11:25-30

Though we have died with Christ in Holy Baptism, and we are raised to new life in Him, we find "another law waging war" in our body and life, that is, between our old Adam and the new man (Rom. 7:23). By the Spirit of Christ, we "desire to do what is right," but we are not able to do so because "nothing good" dwells in our sinful flesh (Rom. 7:18). "Thanks be to God," therefore, "through Jesus Christ our Lord," who delivers us from "this body of death" (Rom. 7:24-25). We rejoice in Him, our gentle King, who comes "righteous and having salvation" (Zech. 9:9). He speaks peace to our embattled hearts, and by His blood of the New Testament He sets us "free from the waterless pit," and He returns us to the stronghold of our Baptism (Zech. 9:10-12). Though we "labor and are heavy laden," He calls us to Himself and gives rest to our souls through His free and full forgiveness (Matt. 11:28), not because we are "wise and understanding," but by the "gracious will" of God the Father, whom "the Son chooses to reveal" in love (Matt. 11:25-27).

