

Congregation at Prayer Aug 20, 2017

God is not fair. Or, at least, God is not what we would see as fair. He doesn't reward all participants. He doesn't pick the popular people. He doesn't dole out karmic retribution or reward. He is, however, good and from His goodness flows mercy to undeserving people. [Isaiah 51:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2, 13-15, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: God is not fair, but He is good

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

1 Corinthians 12:3 (ESV) Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

The Third Article: Sanctification 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.	Kindergarten +
<i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.	Third Grade +

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday	Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem—Luke 19:41-48
Monday	Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar's—Matthew 22:15-22

Tuesday	Questions About the Resurrection—Matthew 22:23-33
Wednesday	The Greatest Commandment—Matthew 22:34-46
Thursday	Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees—Matthew 23:1-36
Friday	Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End—Matthew 23:37—24:14
Saturday	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday: Pray for those are prevented from gathering for worship: those who live in areas where persecution is strong; those who do not have a Christian church nearby; those who are homebound; those whose work keeps them away from worship.

Monday: Pray for the salvation and well-being of your neighbors; for our Lutheran schools, colleges, and seminaries; for those who serve as teachers, healthcare workers, police and firefighters; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for your personal life of faith: that you would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in your life and relationships, that your attitudes, your reactions, and your choices would reflect your faith in Christ.

Wed: Pray for the mission of our congregation: to bring people hope, healing and new life through Jesus Christ. Pray about practical ways for you personally to join Jesus in His mission.

Thursday: Pray for your pastors. Pray for protection for them from the attacks of the enemy. Pray for their influence for Christ in the congregation and in the community. Pray that they are able to finish strong and remain faithful to the end.

Friday: Pray for the ministry of Lutheran Church Charities: for their comfort dog ministry; for their Lutheran Emergency Response Teams (LERT) that deploy when disasters happen here and around the country.

Saturday: Pray for the witness of you and your family to those God brings across your path. Pray for eyes to see the opportunities the Lord gives you to talk to others about Jesus or to serve them in His name.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Is. 51:1-6

Rom. 11:33-12:8

Matt. 16:13-20