

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the 11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9th – August 14th, 2010

Theme for the Week – *To know Christ in faith is the meaning and purpose of this life.*

Catechesis Notes: “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15) Jesus’ words in this past Sunday’s Gospel lesson should cause all of us to pause and ponder. We live in a world which strives for more – more money, more possessions, more everything. And that attitude of “more” hasn’t slipped by our sinful nature! It is our sinful nature which is not content with what the Lord has given. It is our sinful nature which complains and wines when our standard of living isn’t like the one next door. It is our sinful nature which wants to hoard and stock up – all for itself!

But the one who is truly “rich” is the one who is in Christ! Material and earthly things will all pass away, but the salvation which Christ gives will never pass away. Through God’s Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit connects us with Christ and gives us true “riches” – the riches of forgiveness, of peace, of the promise of His care, and of life eternal at His side! With these “riches” given to us by God, let us live our lives, as St. Paul said in the second lesson last Sunday, by setting our “hearts on things above.” (Col. 3:1)

The Verse of the week continues our look at important passages to learn by heart and speaks of how Christ humbled Himself so that we may be exalted. The Catechism portion is taken from the Sacrament of the Altar as we see God’s “riches” given to us in the Lord’s Supper. The Readings for the Week continue our look at the Gospel of St. Luke.

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.

Invocation –

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse of the Week: 2 Corinthians 8:9 – 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar – II

What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?

That is shown us by these words, “**Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.**” Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Readings for the Week of the 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Day	Bible Readings for the Family
Monday	The Parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin - Luke 15:1-10
Tuesday	The Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32
Wednesday	The Parable of the Unjust Steward - Luke 16:1-13
Thursday	The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:14-31
Friday	Faith as a Mustard Seed - Luke 17:1-10
Saturday	Meditations or Look to Sunday’s Readings below

Prayers:

The Lord’s Prayer

Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism

In the name of God the Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Looking forward to next Sunday – The 12th Sun. after Pentecost – 8/15/10

Theme: *In Christ, we can be confident of what the future holds.*

Genesis 15:1-6: *Hoping beyond hope, Abraham believed the Lord’s promise of a son and the Lord “credited it to him as righteousness.”*

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16: *Faith grasps that which we do not see. True faith will raise our sights to life eternal and heaven as our true home.*

Luke 12:32-40: *Our Savior tells us “do not be afraid” for the kingdom of heaven is ours. We set our hearts on this promise as we prepare and patiently wait for our Lord’s return.*