

*For the week of the Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 15th, through January 21st, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “In The Stead and By the Command” Every week during absolution I say I do this “in the stead and by the command” of Jesus, but what all does that mean? Well, it means I am not free to do or say as I please as a pastor. I do what I do on behalf of Jesus. He has commanded me what to say and what to not say. Specifically, He has commanded me that if anyone is repentant of their sin then I MUST deliver God’s forgiveness to them. This is called the “loosing key” that pastors are to exercise. You may have confidence that when I deliver God’s forgiveness to you that what is spoken on earth is spoken in heaven.

On the other hand, if someone has NOT repented it is my duty to speak God’s Law to them and withhold forgiveness. This is called the “binding key” that pastors are to exercise. A pastor never eagerly makes use of this key. Before this key is used, a pastor does what He can. He proclaims God’s Law so that people may turn from their sin and back toward God. However, when it has become clear that a person refuses to turn from their sin then a pastor has no choice but to use this binding key.

If talking to the person fails, a pastor moves to the minor ban where he refuses to give them the Lord’s Supper. In theory, this ban is recognized at all altars of the Lord. Our modern context complicates this as our sinful nature doesn’t want to offend or recognize the truth of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. However, it is still our prayer that if someone would be placed under the minor ban it would be enough for them to examine themselves and repent.

If the person continues unrepentant, the next step is excommunication. It is a pastor’s duty, along with the congregation, to inform the person they are outside of God’s grace. This is not a matter of opinion, but what Christ has commanded. Excommunication only outwardly expresses the spiritual reality. This is not “kicking them out of the church,” but acknowledging they have already walked out themselves, removing themselves from God’s grace. It is not unloving or unkind. The desire is they realize the seriousness of their sin and turn.

May the Lord protect us from this and allow the loosing key to be the only one needed among us!

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: PSALM 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

PSALM 40:1-11 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter suffering and painful death, whereby You purchased us from the pangs of eternal death. Thanks be to You that You have sent us the Word of Your salvation. Preserve it with us pure and unadulterated, and whenever we hear or read it, reveal Yourself to us as the Savior of our souls. 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	John 1:29-42a	
Monday	Joseph's Cup Is Found in Benjamin's Sack—Genesis 44:1-17	Galatians 4:12-31
Tuesday	Judah Intercedes for Benjamin Before Joseph—Genesis 44:18-45:3	Galatians 5:1-26
Wednesday	Fishers Follow, Jesus Calls Disciples—Luke 5:1-11	Galatians 6:1-18
Thursday	Joseph Forgives His Brothers—Genesis 45:4-28	Ephesians 1:1-23
Friday	Jacob Journeys to Egypt to See Joseph—Genesis 46:1-27	Ephesians 2:1-22
Saturday	Isaiah 9:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:10-18

CATECHISM — Confession and Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?	First Grade+
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?	Second Grade +
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."	
What do you believe according to these words?	Third Grade +
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.	

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

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

Prayer on the Confession

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. Amen.

Collect of the Week

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: *Dwayne & Robyn Harris; Hershel & Margi Harris; Sheri Harris; Kris & Shannon Hassler, Lucas, Nathan; Joseph & Randi Helget, Sydney, Gavin, Avery; John & Linda Herrick; Jonathan Herrick; Mary & Mia Herrick; Zach Herrick*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Bekah Wadkins; Ebony Hughes; Scott Reed; Addalyn Watkins.*

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Sick:

Friends of our Congregation:

Our Circuit:

*St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth
Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Rev. Don Haselhuhn*

Our District Staff and President, *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

Heather Williams, Business Manager

Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *USD 290; Life Care Center; Hope House*

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

"Lamb of God"

550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

Text: Twila Paris, 1958
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Refrain O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

Looking Forward to "Third Sunday After the Epiphany"

January 22, 2023

Service Hymns: 728 | 839 | 644 | 849 | 523 | 617 | 602 | 528

Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 | Matthew 4:12-25

By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon "the people who walked in darkness" and "who dwelt in a land of deep darkness" (Is. 9:2). He also has "multiplied the nation" and "increased its joy" (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be "fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth "proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people" (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides "those who are perishing" from "us who are being saved" (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, "in the same mind and the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

