

*For the week of The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, through May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Lutheran Confessions”** The next four articles largely talk about what this justification (Article IV) that Christ accomplished for us does to us when it embraces us.

**Article V: The Ministry** “So that we may obtain this [justifying] faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given.” These are the means that Christ has given the Church, and so we trust God to work through these means. We are often tempted to believe that the Word and Sacraments are insufficient. When we do so, however, we are saying that we know better than God Himself how to convert people to the faith. That is why this article concludes by condemning those who believe that it is “through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.”

**Article VI: New Obedience** “Our churches teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruit. It is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God’s will. We should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. The forgiveness of sins and justification is received through faith.” God overflows our bucket with grace, and that overflow is good works. In other words, as ones who are saved we will perform good works. That’s the nature of who we are as new creations in Christ.

**Article VII: The Church** “Our churches teach that one holy Church is to remain forever. The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are correctly administered. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere.” It is Christ who makes the Church, and He does so through His Word and Sacrament. We do not make the Church through our own actions or conformity to any human rite.

**Article VIII: What the Church Is** Strictly speaking, the Church is the congregation of saints and true believers.” The article goes on to recognize that there are many unbelievers within the midst of the Church, even in the clergy. It reaffirms that the Church is made by Christ, not by human efforts, so even if a secretly unbelieving clergy performs the Sacraments we can be assured that the validity and effectiveness of the Sacrament remains.

### ***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 14:23**

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

#### **PSALM 146 or the appointed daily psalms**

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

*Many times have You, O Lord, our God, been our help in the time of need. Many times You have guarded us in danger and kept us from evil. Thanks and praise to You for Your merciful kindness. Withdraw not Your hand from us because of our sins, but remember Your great mercy, and let Your grace and help be with us at all times, through Jesus Christ. **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 14:1-14	
Monday	Lay Up for Yourselves Treasure in Heaven—Matthew 6:19-34	Proverbs 21:1-31
Tuesday	Jesus Is the Narrow Way—Matthew 7:1-14	Proverbs 22:1-29
Wednesday	A Returning Truth, Christ Returns—Revelation 21:1-22:5	Proverbs 23:1-35
Thursday	Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14	Proverbs 24:1-34
Friday	Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25	Proverbs 25:1-28
Saturday	Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:12-22

## **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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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:** *Nicholas & Allison Watkins, Aubrey, Kaitlyn, Hailey, Addalyn; Richard & Denise Weber; Diana & James Weber; David Lloyd Wells; Daniel White; Elias & Shelby White; Nathan White; Samuel & Kaylynn White; David & Tracy White, Abby, Kady, Noah*

**Baptismal Birthdays:** *Camden Luft; Emersyn Luft; Natalie Melton; Anna Ehmann; Mia Herrick; Dillon Dewey; Zechariah Smith*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Kirk & Lavonne Wright*

**Members of the Congregation:** *Thresa; Janet; Claire*

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

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Adam Reichart*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Eddie Hosch*

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

*Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant*

*Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant*

**Our Synod and President,** *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

**Our Community:** *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

**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

### "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

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1 You are the way; through You alone  
Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed  
His heart and will and mind.

2 You are the truth; Your Word alone  
True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind  
And purify the heart.

3 You are the life; the empty tomb  
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You  
Not death nor hell shall harm.

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;  
Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win  
Whose joys eternal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt. Text: Public domain

### Looking Forward to "Sixth Sunday of Easter"

May 14, 2023

**Service Hymns:** 725 | 605 | 655 | 596 | 821 | 490 | 594 | 849

**Readings:** Acts 17:16-31 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 | John 14:15-21

"The God who ... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:24-25) wants all people to seek Him that they might "feel their way toward him and find him" (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols "formed by the art and imagination of man" (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and "has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us "as orphans" (John 14:18), but He gives "another Helper," the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18). Because He "suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous" (1 Peter 3:18), we "honor Christ the Lord as holy" and are always "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks" for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism "now saves" us "as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

