

*For the week of The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21st, through May 27th, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Lutheran Confessions” The next three articles talk about authority and order in the Church and in the state.

Article XIV: Order in the Church “Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.” This article wasn’t written against Rome, but against false accusations that lumped Lutheran reformers in with radical reformers who went so far as to reject the Office of the Holy Ministry. The Lutherans were affirming the Church’s historical practice of publicly placing qualified men into the pastoral office. This is not an authority that someone can just take for themselves, nor can just anyone bestow it. Rather, the Office of the Holy Ministry is conferred by means of a formal, public, and official call from the Church.

Article XV: Church Ceremonies “Our churches teach that ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin. Also, ceremonies and other practices that are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church (in particular, holy days, festivals, and the like) ought to be observed.” The article continues to explain observing such ceremonies are not necessary for salvation. The Lutheran reformers again defended themselves from being lumped in with radical reformers who not only rid congregations of ceremony, but went so far as to say such ceremony is sinful. In our own time we have those who argue that celebrating Christmas or Easter is ‘pagan’ and against the Christian faith, or that having a crucifix is sacrilegious. The Lutheran Reformers, however, recognized many ceremonies help us focus on Christ.

At the same time, the Lutheran Reformers wanted to be clear they did not stand with Rome, who taught that observing ceremonies was required and earned forgiveness of sins.

Article XVI: Civil Government “Our churches teach that lawful civil regulations are good works of God.” The article goes on to confess that Christians may faithfully participate in civil and political life. Again, this was a defense of any accusations that lumped in the Lutheran reformers with radical reformers, who went so far as to say that Christians cannot hold any political office or make any oaths, even in marriage. Some radical reformers even went so far as to reject their homes and families to pursue “super spiritual” lives separate from the community. The Lutheran reformers were also rejected monasticism. They insisted that godly lives are lived out by fulfilling the various callings that God has placed in your life in service to God and neighbor.

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 14:18

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

PSALM 68¹-10 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

Glory and praise and honor belong to You, Lamb of God, because You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, and have led our captivity captive. Pour out Your Spirit upon the dry soil of our hearts that He may cause faith and love to spring up in them and to bring fruit unto eternal life. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	129, 130, 131	134, 135	137, 138	140, 141	144	146	148	1, 2
Evening	132, 133	136	139	142, 143	145	147	149, 150	3, 4

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	John 17:1-11	
Monday	Jesus Cleanses the Leper—Matthew 8:1-4	Proverbs 31:1-31
Tuesday	Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant—Matthew 8:5-13	Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
Wednesday	Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law—Matthew 8:14-22	Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
Thursday	Jesus Stills the Storm—Matthew 8:23-27	Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
Friday	Two Demon-Possessed Men are Healed—Matthew 8:28-34	Ecclesiastes 4:1-5:7
Saturday	Numbers 11:24-30	Acts 2:1-21

CATECHISM — Christian Question with Their Answers —

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?
Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. How do you know this?
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. Are you sorry for your sins?
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins.
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

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

For right reception of the Lord's Supper (1)

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Week

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him 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: *Kevin Adams; Nick Adams; Charles & Laura Adams; Tony Ahrens; Tyler Ahrens; Tim & Susan Ahrens*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Marty Piotrowsky; Breanna Shirley; Olivia Browning; Emma Hird; Alex Reed*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Hunter & Emily Peoples*

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

Friends of our Congregation:

Other:

Our Circuit:

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

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Vacant

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

Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *City of Richmond, City of Princeton, USD 288*

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

“See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”

494

- 1 See, the Lord ascends in triumph;
Conqu’ring King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,
To His heav’nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices
Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted
To receive their heav’nly King.
- 2 Who is this that comes in glory
With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies,
He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer,
He who from the grave arose,
He has vanquished sin and Satan;
He by death has crushed His foes.
- 3 While He lifts His hands in blessing,
He is parted from His friends;
While their eager eyes behold Him,
He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased Him,
Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated
To His everlasting home.
- 4 Now our heav’nly Aaron enters
With His blood within the veil;
Joshua now is come to Canaan,
And the kings before Him quail.
Now He plants the tribes of Israel
In their promised resting place;
Now our great Elijah offers
Double portion of His grace.
- 5 He has raised our human nature
On the clouds to God’s right hand;
There we sit in heav’nly places,
There with Him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord’s ascension
We by faith behold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain.

Looking Forward to “The Day of Pentecost”

May 28, 2023

Service Hymns: 913 | 650 | 906 | 497 | 618 | 861 | 649 | 700

Readings: Numbers 11:24-30 | Acts 2:1-21 | John 7:37-39

The Lord took “some of the Spirit” that was on Moses “and put it on the seventy elders” of Israel (Num. 11:25), and they “prophesied in the camp” (Num. 11:26). In the same way, our risen Lord Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost — the 50th day and the “Eighth Sunday” of Easter. When “a sound like a mighty rushing wind” and “tongues as of fire appeared” and rested on each of the 12 apostles, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” and proclaimed “the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:2–4, 11). The Lord Jesus grants this same Spirit to His Church on earth to proclaim Him glorified on the cross and risen victorious from the grave for us sinners. From His open heart, our crucified and risen Lord pours out His Holy Spirit in “rivers of living water” (John 7:38) and invites everyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink freely (John 7:37). Through this life-giving work of the Holy Spirit, we hear our pastors “telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God” (Acts 2:11), and “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

