

For the week of *The Third Sunday after Pentecost*  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, through June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lutheran Confessions, Article XXV: Confession**

In our time and place, “private Confession and Absolution” may seem foreign to many Lutherans. Yet the Lutheran reformers never intended for this practice to fall out of favor. They desired to hold tight to this practice, but to rid it of the abuses that crept in. Private Confession and Absolution are a gospel gift, not a work of Law. So when teaching arose turning Confession into an act that merited forgiveness from God the Lutheran Reformers had to address it. *“Confession in the churches is not abolished among us. The body of the Lord is not usually given to those who have not been examined and absolved. The people are very carefully taught about faith in the Absolution. Before, there was profound silence about faith. Our people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s command. ...They are taught that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins.”*

The Lutheran Reformers in the Augsburg Confession also deal with other false teaching, such as needing to name every sin you’ve committed before you can be forgiven them. *“It is impossible to recount all sins, as Psalm 19:12 testifies: ‘Who can discern his errors?’ Also Jeremiah 17:9, ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?’ If only sins that can be named are forgiven, consciences could never find peace.”*

Private Confession and Absolution is such a wonderful gift, especially for those troubled or burned by a particular sin. It is also a proper confession and practice of our Lutheran faith.

### **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: MATTHEW 9:37B-38**

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

### **PSALM 100 or the appointed daily psalms**

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

*Spirit of grace and of prayer that proceeds from the Father and the Son, grant us Your power, and intercede for us with sighing’s which cannot be uttered, that in spirit, and in truth we may give thanks to our Savior Jesus Christ for His love and truth. Anoint us with the oil of gladness to walk before our God in a holy conversation, and to run the way of His Commandments. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	62, 63	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80
Evening	64, 65	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81

## **BIBLE READINGS**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	Matthew 9:35-10:20	
Monday	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath—Matthew 12:9-21	Hosea 8:1-14
Tuesday	A House Divided Cannot Stand—Matthew 12:22-32	Hosea 9:1-17
Wednesday	A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit—Matthew 12:33-50	Hosea 10:1-15
Thursday	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Matthew 13:1-9	Hosea 11:1-12:14
Friday	The Purpose of Parables—Matthew 13:10-23	Hosea 13:1-14:9
Saturday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:12-23

## **CATECHISM — Christian Question with Their Answers —**

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?  
His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.
18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?  
That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.
19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?  
First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.
20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?  
To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.  
Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

*Note:* These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

## **DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

### **DAILY PRAYER**

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

#### **Collect of the Week**

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your Saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through 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:** *Mike & Deb Carey; Clinton Bryan, Mya Casimir, Dakota Bryan, Grace Bryan; Mike Conner; Dewey Cook Jr; Gayle Coulson*

**Baptismal Birthdays:** *Kali Johnson; Lily Meyer*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Joe & Deena Rogers*

**Members of the Congregation:** *Barb; Xander; Bill*

**Friends of our Congregation:** *Todd*

**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.*

*Jackie Shaefer, Communications Specialist*

*Heather Williams, Business Manager*

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

**Our Community:** *City of Williamsburg; USD 287; City of Richmond*

**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**

**“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”**

**834**

1 O God, O Lord of heav’n and earth,  
Thy living finger never wrote  
That life should be an aimless mote,  
A deathward drift from futile birth.  
Thy Word meant life triumphant  
hurled  
In splendor through Thy broken  
world.  
Since light awoke and life began,  
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.

2 Our fatal will to equal Thee,  
Our rebel will wrought death and  
night.  
We seized and used in prideful spite  
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.  
We housed us in this house of doom,  
Where death had royal scope and  
room,  
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,  
Breached all its walls for our release.

3 O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
To drink for us the dark despair  
That strangled our reluctant breath.  
How beautiful the feet that trod  
The road that leads us back to God!  
How beautiful the feet that ran  
To bring the great good news to man!

4 O Spirit, who didst once restore  
Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men,  
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once  
more,  
That in these gray and latter days  
There may be those whose life is  
praise,  
Each life a high doxology  
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt.  
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***Looking Forward to “The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost”***

***June 25, 2023***

***Service Hymns: Praise Band***

***Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13 | Romans 6:12-23 | Matthew 10:5a, 21-33***

The outcome of sin is death, “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). He has set you free from the slavery of sin and has brought you “from death to life” (Rom. 6:13). No longer are you under the condemnation of the Law, but you live “under grace” (Rom. 6:14). Such is your courage in the face of “those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Matt. 10:28). For though “you will be hated by all” and maligned by the world for the name of Christ (Matt. 10:22, 25), you abide in the care of your Father in heaven, who numbers “even the hairs of your head” and values you more “than many sparrows” (Matt. 10:30–31). By the Word of Christ, you have become like Him, your Teacher and Master in whom you endure to the end, and “will be saved” (Matt. 10:22, 25). For He is with you “as a dread warrior,” who has overcome your enemies (Jer. 20:11). By the righteousness of faith, He delivers your heart, mind, body and life “from the hand of evildoers,” and He brings you into the land of the living (Jer. 20:12–13).

