

*For the week of The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25th, through July 1st, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lutheran Confessions, Article XXVI: The Distinction of Meats

By the time of the Reformation, the Church had devised complex regulations commanding abstinence from certain foods on certain days and similar practices. These teachings and practices misled people to believe that by following such regulations they merited God's grace and favor. Teachers even required them as necessary. The Lutheran Reformers argued that this had done great damage to the Church.

"First, the chief part of the Gospel—the doctrine of grace and of the righteousness of faith—has been obscured by this view." Without the Gospel there is no Christianity. "Christian righteousness is the faith that believes that sins are freely forgiven for Christ's sake. But this doctrine of Paul has been almost completely smothered by traditions, which have produced the opinion that we must merit grace and righteousness by making distinctions in meats and similar services."

"Second, these traditions have hindered God's commandments, because traditions were placed far above God's commandments." Such spiritual significance was placed on these rules and practices that people concerned themselves with them to the neglect of God's commands. People lost sight of a God pleasing life. Instead, they honored living that contradicted God's revealed will and began to despise the work God actually gave them to do.

"Third, traditions brought great danger to consciences." There was so much required it was impossible to do it all. People began to despair, even taking their own lives. They were never given the words of consolation about faith and grace.

The Lutheran Reformers confess many traditions do lead to good order in the Church and are beneficial, but they must be understood rightly. They do not justify us before God, nor is it sinful if we omit them without causing offense. The Gospel and its clear proclamation must be of prime importance, that people may have confidence in the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting on account of Christ.

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 10:32

Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.

PSALM 91 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

*Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of faith, grant us the true and saving faith, and preserve us in the same against all temptations to doubt and unbelief. Blot out our iniquities by Your blood; cover our sins with Your righteousness, and let Your angels be a fenced wall around us against all our enemies, and evermore teach us to know the secret of Your Father's will. **Amen.***

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	80	82, 84	85, 87	88	90	92	94	97, 98
Evening	81	83	86	89	91	93	95, 96	99, 100

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33	
Monday	The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares—Matthew 13:24-35	Joel 1:1-20
Tuesday	Parables of the Kingdom—Matthew 13:36-46	Joel 2:1-27
Wednesday	The Parable of the Dragnet—Matthew 13:47-58	Joel 2:28-3:21
Thursday	John the Baptist Is Beheaded—Matthew 14:1-13 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles	Amos 1:1-2:15
Friday	The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:14-21	Amos 3:1-4:5
Saturday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Romans 7:1-13

CATECHISM — Basic Questions

What is the Christian Faith?

The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Savior and Redeemer.

John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11-12

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus is true God and true man in one person. He is the eternal Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary to be our Savior and Lord. This God who became flesh in the person of the Son, Jesus Christ, is the only true God, the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John 17:3; Matthew 28:19

What has this one God done?

God made all things and loves His creation, especially His human creatures. Beginning with our first parents, all humanity has rebelled against Him and fallen into darkness, sin, and death. God the Father sent His only Son into the world to become man and to redeem and save humanity by His death and resurrection. God sent His Spirit so that people might once again be His own through faith in His Son, Jesus, who is the world's only hope, life, and salvation.

What is a Christian?

A Christian is someone who, by the power and work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, believes in and confesses Jesus as Savior and Lord. Through Baptism, a Christian is adopted into the Father's family, the Church.

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

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

Collect of the Week

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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: *Mike & Sally Crane; Vic & Sonya Croci; Vince Croci; Ellen Cromwell; Gary & Tory Daniels, Xander.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Ruth Tricket; Josh Ohlde; Ava Kelley; Connor Johnston; Corey Johnston; Brandon Dewey; Sharon Schultze*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Brian & Wendi Janssen; Kevin & Brandi Leadbetter; Dean & Cathy Pope; Gary & Tory Daniel.*

Members of the Congregation: *Barb; Xander; Bill; Janet; Terry; Dorothy*

Friends of our Congregation: *Todd; Jane; Gloria*

Other:

Our Circuit:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Vacant

Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Vacant

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 Princeton, USD 288*

Our State and Governor, *Laura Kelly*

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

“Lord of Our Life”

659

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| <p>1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of ev'ry nation:
Hear and receive Your Church's supplica-
tion,
 Lord God Almighty.</p> <p>2 See round Your ark the hungry billows
curling;
See how Your foes their banners are un-
furling
And with great spite their fiery darts are
hurling,
 O Lord, preserve us.</p> | <p>3 Lord, be our light when worldly darkness
veils us;
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor
fails us;
And in the day when hell itself assails
us,
 Grant us Your peace, Lord:</p> <p>4 Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts
are raging,
Peace in Your Church, our troubled
souls assuaging,
Peace when the world its endless war is
waging,
 Peace in Your heaven.</p> |
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Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to “The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost”

July 2, 2023

Readings: *Jeremiah 28:5-9 | Romans 7:1-13 | Matthew 10:34-42*

False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken “war, famine, and pestilence” (Jer. 28:8). But if “the LORD has truly sent the prophet,” he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and “the word of that prophet comes to pass” (Jer. 28:9). The preaching of God’s Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, “sinful beyond measure,” thereby “producing death” in the sinner (Rom. 7:13). But through our Baptism into Christ, “we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive” (Rom. 7:6). Now we belong “to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God” (Rom. 7:4). Belonging to Him puts us at odds with the world and divides us from all earthly ties, not only from our human family, but each person from his own life. For Christ does not come “to bring peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). Yet, whoever takes up his cross to follow Christ, and “loses his life” for Christ’s sake, finds new life in Him (Matt. 10:38–39).

