

*For the week of The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9th, through July 15th, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Lutheran Confessions, Article XXVIII: Church Authority

This article lays out an important doctrine we do well to keep in mind. God has given us two institutions to govern us in this earthly life: the Church and the State. They each have their own distinct role to play. The State is the bearer of God's sword and the Church is the bearer of God's Word. Many times the distinction between them have been blurred as in this fallen world they have come into competition. It never ends well when we try to blend or confuse these two institutions, in our day nor in the reformers'.

"There has been great controversy about the power of the bishops, in which some have terribly confused the power of the Church with the power of the State." The popes covered over the Gospel with human works and traditions, burdening consciences, then amassed political power for earthly might. "Therefore, our teachers, in order to comfort people's consciences, were constrained to show the difference between the authority of the Church and the authority of the State. They taught that both of them are to be held in reverence and honor, as God's chief blessings on earth, because they have God's command."

"The authority of [the Church] is exercised only by teaching or preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, either to many or to individuals, according to their calling. ...Therefore, the Church has the authority to grant eternal things and exercise this authority only by the ministry of the Word. ...Civil rulers do not defend minds, but bodies and bodily things against obvious injuries. They restrain people with the sword and physical punishment in order to preserve civil justice and peace."

"Therefore, the Church's authority and the State's authority must not be confused." Of course, this does not mean the Church and the State shouldn't work together. Both are given for the purposes of God. Both are His instruments. Sometimes the Church needs to confront the government when it has gone astray. Sometimes the government needs to confront the Church. However, cooperation should never become confusion. Every time in history this has happened the Gospel gets covered over, no matter who is "on top," even the Church. So we pray and seek that both the Church and the State fulfill their own duties according to the office that God has given them.

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 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

PSALM 145:1-14 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

Lord Jesus, my salvation, My light, my life divine. My only consolation, I make me wholly Thine! For Thou hast dearly bought me With blood and bitter pain. Let me, since Thou hast sought me, Eternal life obtain. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	116, 117	119:1–24	119:49–72	119:89–112	119:137–152	120, 121	124, 125	129, 130, 131
Evening	118	119:25–48	119:73–88	119:113–136	119:153–176	122, 123	126, 127, 128	132, 133

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Mathew 11:25-30	
Monday	The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23	Jonah 1:1-2:10
Tuesday	Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me—Matthew 16:24-28	Jonah 1:1-2:10
Wednesday	The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13	Micah 1:1-2:13
Thursday	A Boy Is Healed—Matthew 17:14-21	Micah 3:1-4:13
Friday	Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection—Matthew 17:22-27	Micah 5:1-6:16
Saturday	Isaiah 55:10-13	Romans 8:12-17

CATECHISM — Basic Questions

What are the two great doctrines of the Bible?

Law and Gospel are the two great doctrines of the Bible. We must sharply distinguish between the Law and the Gospel in order to understand the Bible rightly.

What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel?

The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done, and still does, in Jesus, for our salvation.

The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and brings God's grace and favor.

The Law must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to sinners who refuse to repent; the Gospel must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled by their sins.

Romans 3:20; John 6:63; Romans 1:16

What is the Small Catechism?

For centuries, Christians have used three important texts as a basic summary for teaching the Christian faith and life: the Ten Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer. Martin Luther helpfully included biblical passages on Baptism, Confession, and the Lord's Supper. The Small Catechism was written by Luther in 1529, includes these texts along with brief explanations.

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

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

Collect of the Week

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; 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: *Megan Davis; Tristan Davis; Wade Davis; Charlotte Dehn; Brady & Malissa Desormeaux, Bennet, Finnegan.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Yvonne Knight; Kevin James*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Jim & Joyce Johns*

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

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

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.*

Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant

Jackie Shaefer, Communications Specialist

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

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

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- 1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are
past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to “The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost”

July 16, 2023

Readings: *Isaiah 55:10–13 | Romans 8:12–17 | Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (Is. 55:10), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Is. 55:13). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (Rom. 8:15). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14–15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).

