

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ The Feast of Pentecost ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of May 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

How many employees or workers would call themselves “slaves”? Not too many! If one did consider himself a slave, it would not be a complimentary term. Yet “slave” is a term that is often used in the New Testament of our Lord. For Him it is not demeaning. It is a term that describes the nature of His office as one who has come into the world to serve not Himself but others. He came to serve both the Father in love and sinful man in love to the point of dying upon the cross. He had no thought for Himself or for His own protection or welfare. He is the ultimate “worker,” and in His work we see the true nature of Christian work. We “work” as Christians, not to serve ourselves, but to serve others in love. The characteristic of our work is that it is done for others, even if they do not appreciate it. Selfless love is what motivated Jesus, and it is that love to which we are called by faith in the Gospel. Jesus’ selfless love and service to us is reflected in His own words: “*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for man*” (Mt 20:28). Since this is Jesus’ confession about Himself, we should not be adverse to having ourselves called slaves.

Christian employers and supervisors are also to be governed in their work by their faith in the Gospel. This is the meaning of the phrase “in the same way.” In the same way that workers are led by their faith in the Gospel to be faithful in their work, employers and supervisors are to be led by the Gospel in their conduct toward their workers. A Christian employer is not to threaten, coerce, or abuse his workers. This does not mean that a Christian employer has to put up with laziness or shoddy workmanship from his employees. Faith in God’s grace and forgiveness does not mean tolerating sin, malfeasance, or neglect of one’s duties. Faith in God’s grace and forgiveness means that the Christian employer administers his office within the secular kingdom fairly, impartially, and for the welfare of his other employees and customers. If a worker requires discipline or needs to be fired because of failures in the workplace, such actions are *not* taken out of vengeance but with the understanding that Christ is the “Master” of both the employer and the employee and “there is no favoritism with Him.” A worker who is derelict in his duties must be disciplined or removed from his work, *not* primarily because he is stealing from his employer (which he is), but because his failures hinder the capacity of his employer to serve others in love with the services and work his business provides.

**Not To Be Served, But To Serve...**

Responsive Prayer 2, *Lutheran Service Book* p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**Matthew 20:28**

*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**Table of Duties**

**To Workers of All Kinds**

*Ephesians 6:5-8*

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

**To Employers and Supervisors**

*Ephesians 6:9*

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.

Daily Readings...

*Monday (5/20):* Numbers 22:1-20; Luke 22:1-23

*Tuesday (5/21):* Numbers 22:21-23:3; Luke 22:24-46

*Wednesday (5/22):* Numbers 23:4-28; Luke 22:47-71

*Thursday (5/23):* Numbers 24:1-25; Luke 23:1-25

*Friday (5/24):* Numbers 27:12-23; Luke 23:26-56

*Saturday (5/25):* Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27; Luke 24:1-27

*Sunday (5/26):* Numbers 35:9-30; Luke 24:28-53

Prayer of the Week...

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

*Psalm 104*

Hymn of the Week...

*“Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid” 500*

Looking Forward to Next Week...

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

John 8:48-59