

Congregation at Prayer
✠ **The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost** ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of June 10th to June 16th*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

In our self-examination we come now to a series of questions about who Jesus is. Having just confessed that He is our hope of salvation, we now confess *why*.

Question 7 asks, “*Who is Christ?*” Christ is the Greek word for Messiah, which is Hebrew—both mean “anointed.” So the question is, “Who is the anointed?” “Who is Messiah?” To this we answer, “*The Son of God, true God and man.*” The only one to fit that description is Jesus.

John’s Gospel makes it very clear that Jesus is the eternal Son of the Father. He’s not created or made, but *begotten* before the world began. In fact, the world was made *through* Him, by His Word. The Divinity of Jesus is confessed most clearly in John’s Gospel, where Jesus repeatedly teaches, “*I and the Father are One*” (John 10:30). That helps us along with question 8: Jesus isn’t a separate God from the Father, but one with Him—three Divine Persons, One Divine Essence.

But then there’s the humanity of Jesus. Matthew gives us this humanity best at the beginning and the end: Jesus’ birth and His death (though certainly this is throughout all the Gospels). But this humanity of Christ is what ties us together with Him. That brings us to question 9: *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?* What follows is something that can only be done with humanity: *He died for me*. In Christ, God dies *for me*.

Question 10 is a quick jump back to 8—just making sure we’ve got this Trinity straight. God the Father doesn’t die, neither does God the Holy Spirit. Neither Father nor Spirit has flesh and blood like you and me—only God the Son does in the person of Jesus Christ. Remember question 7, the Christ is true God *and* man.

But how do we know this? Did we make it up? Is it a pious myth, a fable, a good story? Not at all! We know it from the Gospel! The Gospel is the story recounting the words and deeds of Jesus. The Gospel (of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) is recorded by eye-witnesses, or in testimony of eye-witnesses. We also know this for certain from the Words of Institution. These words are Christ’s own, and they tell us of His death and His resurrection, of His humanity and His divinity, and best of all, of our forgiveness in Him. And then, with those words, we receive His body and blood into our mouths. All of this confirms us in this truth that Jesus is the Christ *for us!*

Jesus is the Christ for you!

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Matthew 16:16

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

Christian Questions & Their Answers

7. *Who is Christ?*

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. *How many Gods are there?*

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. *Did the Father also die for you?*

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. *How do you know this?*

From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

Daily Readings...

Monday (6/10): Proverbs 8:22-36; John 13:1-20

Tuesday (6/11): Proverbs 9:1-18; John 13:21-38

Wednesday (6/12): Proverbs 10:1-23; John 14:1-17

Thursday (6/13): Proverbs 13:1-25; John 14:18-31

Friday (6/14): Proverbs 14:1-27; John 15:1-11

Saturday (6/15): Proverbs 15:1-29; John 15:12-27

Sunday (6/16): Proverbs 16:1-24; John 16:1-16

Prayer of the Week...

O Lord, Father of all mercy and God of all comfort, You always go before and follow after us. Grant that we may rejoice in Your gracious presence and continually be given to all good works; 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 138

Hymn of the Week...

“When in the Hour of Deepest Need” 615

Looking Forward to Next Week...

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-14

Galatians 2:15-21, 3:10-14

Luke 7:36-8:3