

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

At the altar rail we make confession. We confess our sins and unworthiness to stand before the Lord and Maker of heaven and earth. We also confess Jesus, who forgives all our sin. This confession is both a *remembrance* and a *proclamation*.

We remember our sin and the sin of the whole world. We remember our fallenness and inability to make things right with God, no matter how hard we may try. And then we remember the story of our salvation. We remember Jesus—the word He spoke and the work He accomplished for us and for our salvation on the cross. In this remembrance of sin and salvation we actually then participate in this life-changing event by receiving the very body and blood of Jesus for our forgiveness.

This great remembrance becomes then a proclamation. We proclaim, or preach what Christ has done for us and for our salvation. Our gathering at the rail proclaims to one another that this is the place for sinners. This is the place where sins are forgiven, redemption delivered, and life bestowed. We preach of our failings but Christ's victory.

The whole Christian life is then a life directed to and from the altar. All we have of ourselves is confessed as filthy rags and rubbish. And all He has for us is grace, mercy, and peace. He takes what is ours and gives what is His. The altar is the place for this great exchange. And all of it is done in love.

This is important. Christ didn't die to pay off a bet, or out of drudgery. He wasn't coaxed into it or had His arm twisted. This is His perfect love: all that He does is for us and for His heavenly Father. He does it all with great joy, knowing what it means to be a faithful Son and faithful Lord. Jesus loves you. And this is known chiefly from the cross, from the self-giving donation of His body and blood for you. This is the love into which He then calls us.

That brings us to question 18: *Finally, why do YOU wish to go to the Sacrament?* We've seen why our Lord went to the cross and gave His body and blood for you. Why would you want to receive this? From this question we learn that the Sacrament teaches us to believe in Jesus. It bestows and works faith within us. It proclaims into our ears and into our mouths the great love of Christ for us. It sets before our eyes His sacrifice of love. And then this sacrament invites us and draws us and places us within His life. From this altar we then carry the love of Christ to our neighbor. We come to be united with Jesus—not for our sake alone, but for the sake of the world!

**Love for God and Man in Christ**  
Responsive Prayer 2, *Lutheran Service Book* p.285

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**John 14:31**

*But I do as the Father has commanded me,  
so that the world may know that I love the Father.*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...      **Christian Questions & Their Answers**

15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?*

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: *This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?*

First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

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.

Daily Readings...

*Monday (6/24):* Proverbs 30:1-9, 18-33; John 20:19-31

*Tuesday (6/25):* Proverbs 31:10-31; John 21:1-25

*Wednesday (6/26):* Joshua 1:1-18; Acts 8:1-25

*Thursday (6/27):* Joshua 2:1-24; Acts 8:26-40

*Friday (6/28):* Joshua 3:1-17; Acts 9:1-22

*Saturday (6/29):* Joshua 4:1-24; Acts 9:23-43

*Sunday (6/30):* Joshua 5:1-6:5; Acts 10:1-17

Prayer of the Week...

O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; 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 71*

Hymn of the Week...

*"O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe" 666*

Looking Forward to Next Week...

1 Kings 19:9b-21      Galatians 5:1-25      Luke 9:51-62