

Congregation at Prayer
✠ **The 7th Sunday after Pentecost** ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of July 8th to July 14th*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Christianity is, surprise-surprise, all about *Christ*! The book of Acts tells us that the earliest followers referred to themselves as “the Way” (Acts 9:2). It also says that it was in Antioch that they first took the name “Christian” (Acts 11:26). To be a Christian, or to be of “the Way” is to be *in Christ*.

Jesus Himself said,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

Jesus isn’t some mythological figure. He’s real. He has flesh and blood. He has a birth date. Jesus is as fully human and you or I am—in fact, probably even *more* so! He is what it means to be truly *man*. And yet He is also God. He is just as eternal and timeless as the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was there at the creation of the world. He is the Word of the Father. It is by Jesus that life comes into existence.

We wouldn’t and couldn’t know any of this, however, if it wasn’t for the men who wrote their testimony to these things. That’s what the Bible is: the Holy writings and testimonies to who Jesus is. They are “holy” because they are God’s own word to and for us. As St. Paul says to Timothy,

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

But then they are also “scriptures” because they are written. Real words on real pages in a real language that real people can understand! Admittedly, some of these words are harder to make sense of than others—and yet, there is a simplicity to them that all can at least understand the main point: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world! If we can understand these as writings about man’s sinful rebellion against God, and God’s overcoming man’s sin in the person and work of Jesus Christ, then we’re well on our way to what it means to be *Christian*.

Now these holy Scriptures, the Bible, do more than just tell us *about* Jesus. In fact, they actually *deliver* Jesus to us! St. John says in his Gospel,

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”
(John 20:31)

The Scriptures create this life and faith within us. As Christians, let us read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them. For in these we have life with Christ!

What is Christianity?

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

John 20:31

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

Explanation to the Catechism

1. *What is Christianity*

Christianity is the life and salvation God has given in and through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6; John 17:3; Acts 4:12; Acts 11:26; 1 John 5:11-12)

2. *Where is God’s truth about our Savior Jesus Christ made known?*

This truth is made known in the Bible: the Old Testament, which promises the coming Savior, and the New Testament, which tells of the Savior who has come. (Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 24:27; John 20:31; Ephesians 2:20; 1 John 1:1)

3. *Why do we call the Bible the “Holy Scripture”?*

The Bible is the “Holy Scripture” because God the Holy Spirit gave to His chosen writers the thoughts that they expressed and the words that they wrote (verbal inspiration). Therefore, the Bible is God’s own Word and truth, without error (inerrancy). (John 10:35; Mark 8:38; John 14:26; Acts 24:14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

4. *What is the key to the correct understanding of the Bible?*

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is the heart and center of the Scripture and therefore the key to its true meaning. (John 5:39; Acts 10:43; John 1:18; 2 Timothy 3:15)

Daily Readings...

Monday (7/8): Judges 3:7-31; Acts 13:42-52

Tuesday (7/9): Judges 4:1-24; Acts 14:1-18

Wednesday (7/10): Judges 6:1-24; Acts 14:19-15:5

Thursday (7/11): Judges 6:25-40; Acts 15:6-21

Friday (7/12): Judges 7:1-23; Galatians 1:1-24

Saturday (7/13): Judges 13:1-25; Galatians 2:1-21

Sunday (7/14): Judges 14:1-20; Galatians 3:1-22

Prayer of the Week...

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; 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 19

Hymn of the Week... “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

940

Looking Forward to Next Week...

Leviticus 18:1-5; 19:9-18

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37