

Congregation at Prayer
✠ The 11th Sunday after Pentecost ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of August 5th to August 11th*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Jesus once said,

“Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone.”

(John 8:7)

When He looked up all the stones were left on the ground with no one to throw them but Himself. Only Jesus has the right to stone. Only Jesus has no sin. And only Jesus comes not to stone, but to enter the place of the one who ought to be stoned.

Sin is a problem among us. It’s an infection, a disease, a plague that runs rampant among us and within us. Sin is that desire within us that fights against God with everything we have. Sin curves us in on ourselves. It closes our eyes to His goodness, our ears to His promises, and our minds to understanding His word. Sin lifts us up and knocks everyone else down.

And it’s not going away. There’s no program or diet that will wean you off. There’s no magic bullet or cure—at least, not one this side of the grave. The wages of sin is death—that’s where we’re headed.

Where did it come from? Our parents! And before them, theirs, all the way back to Adam and Eve, the first parents who gave in to temptation of the devil. Sin originates with them and is passed on by them—so we call it *original sin*.

This *original sin* is the total corruption of who we are. We are no longer the way we were created to be. Our confession captures this well as we confess, *“Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.”* Our *nature* is now marked by sin and carries within it the guilt and condemnation we rightly deserve.

This original sin is not just the first sin, though. It is also the source of all our *actual sins*. It’s the cause that brings about every break of the commandments, every lustful desire, every harmful word. Because the content of who we are is marked by sin, so also is our practice, the way we live our lives.

There is no hope for the sinner. There’s no reforming or changing or taming the sinful flesh. The only thing to do is kill the sinner. And it happens on the cross. Jesus, who Luther once called *the greatest sinner*, took the sins of the whole world—original and actual—onto Himself and let it die there. That death of the sinful flesh happened to us too in our baptism. We were baptized *into His death* (Rom 6:4), and there we also rose Him—thanks be to God!

Death to Sin and Life in Christ!

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Romans 5:12

*“Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,
and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

Explanation to the Catechism

78. *What is sin?*

Sin is every thought, desire, word, and deed that is contrary to God’s Law. (1 Jn 3:4)

79. *Who brought sin into the world?*

The devil brought sin into the world by tempting Adam and Eve, who of their own free will yielded to the temptation. (1 John 3:8; Romans 5:12)

80. *How many kinds of sin are there?*

There are two kinds of sin: original sin and actual sin.

81. *What is original sin?*

Original sin is that total corruption of our whole human nature that we have inherited from Adam through our parents. (Ps 51:5; Jn 3:6; Rom 5:12; Eph 4:22)

82. *What has original sin done to human nature?*

Original sin

a. has brought guilt and condemnation to all people (Rom 5:19; Eph 2:3);

b. has left everyone without true fear and love of God, that is, spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God (Gen 18:21; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1; Rom 8:7);

c. causes everyone to commit all kinds of actual sins (Mt 7:17; Gal 5:19-21).

83. *What is actual sin?*

Actual sin is every act against a commandment of God in thoughts, desires, words, or deeds. (Matthew 15:19; James 1:15; 4:17)

Daily Readings...

Monday (8/5): 1 Samuel 19:1-24; Acts 28:1-15

Tuesday (8/6): 1 Samuel 20:1-23; Acts 28:16-31

Wednesday (8/7): 1 Samuel 20:24-42; 1 Corinthians 1:1-25

Thursday (8/8): 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:16

Friday (8/9): 1 Samuel 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Saturday (8/10): 1 Samuel 25:23-44; 1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Sunday (8/11): 1 Samuel 26:1-25; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Prayer of the Week...

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; 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 49

Hymn of the Week... *“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-8

Luke 12:22-40