

Congregation at Prayer

✠ Pentecost 25 ✠

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of November 11th to 17th

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

All three persons of the Trinity work together in creation. The Spirit hovers over the waters, the Father speaks, and the Son, who is the eternal Word, is what is spoken. Ever since the very beginning, God has desired to be known by His Word.

This Word of God that brought all things into being, and which was spoken among His people by the prophets, this Word is the second person of the Holy Trinity—the Word is God Himself. God is never apart from His Word. In the Old Testament, for example, you only know what God thinks or means by what the prophet says. It's only by the Word of God that anything can be sure or certain.

The Evangelist St. John tells us that this eternal Word of God *became flesh*. That is, He took on what you and I have. He became embodied (or if you want to say it more elegantly, He became *incarnate*). That's who this Jesus is—the Word of God in human form.

But that's not good news in itself. It's amazing that God would take flesh and blood, but it matters more what He does with that flesh and blood. And one thing flesh and blood is known most for, is suffering and dying. That's been pretty consistent ever since Adam and Eve.

So here we have God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, the eternal Word, who now has flesh and blood like us, and John says that He *dwelt among us*. That is, He didn't take on flesh and blood to stand apart from us, or over us, or against us—but to be *among us*, with us.

This *God-with-us (Immanuel)*, John says, is *full of grace and truth*. Looking at His grace and truth we see His glory. Now, you'd need to look over the rest of John's Gospel to check this out, but John tends to locate the Glory of Christ most clearly on the cross. That also happens to be where Pilate first asks, "What is truth?" And it's on that cross that the grace of God is seen most clearly, where the flesh and blood Jesus gives His life as a ransom for the sins of the world!

All of this is confessed when we say that He *has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person*. He did it all for us—praise be to God!

The Word Became Flesh

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

The Creed

What is the Second Article?

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Daily Readings...

Monday (11/11): Jeremiah 23:21-40; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday (11/12): Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19

Wednesday (11/13): Jeremiah 26:1-19; Matthew 26:20-35

Thursday (11/14): Jeremiah 29:1-19; Matthew 26:36-56

Friday (11/15): Jeremiah 30:1-24; Matthew 26:57-75

Saturday (11/16): Jeremiah 31:1-34; Matthew 27:1-10

Sunday (11/17): Jeremiah 33:1-22; Matthew 27:11-32

Prayer of the Week...

Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence; 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 115

Hymn of the Week... “From God Can Nothing Move Me”

713

Looking Forward to Next Week...

Malachi 4:1-6

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Luke 21:5-36