

Congregation at Prayer

✠ Pentecost 26 ✠

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of November 18th to 24th

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

It's all about Jesus. Everything we do. And, in fact, it's not just *about* Jesus, but it *IS* Jesus! The preaching is a delivery of Christ's Word, His promise of salvation. The Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar—whatever you call it, it's the real body and blood of Jesus Christ for you! Baptism is the washing in Christ's blood that forgives all our sins. The candles on the altar proclaim Christ who is the light of the world. The singing is marked by hymns to Christ and confessions of what He has done for us. The readings drip with the blood of Christ crucified. And the creed centers on this second article: *And in Jesus Christ...*

When we speak of Jesus as *true God...and also true man*, we aren't simply saying something about Him, and His human and divine natures. (Though there certainly are two natures in Christ.) More than that, we're confessing that in Christ all of humanity is to be understood. Every person we meet we are to recognize in the light of Christ. It's not only that He has taken on our humanity, but it's also that He is the truest form of our humanity. He is more fully and truly human than we are, in our sin. Therefore, when you greet one another in the church, or even out at Starbucks or filling up at a QT, then begin to recognize in each person a reflection of Christ Himself. Admittedly, a very tainted and corrupted reflection, to be sure—but nonetheless, all of humanity points us toward Christ Jesus who is truly human for us.

And then, as our learn-by-heart Scripture shows, He is also fully divine for us. "For," St. Paul says, "*in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.*" That is, Jesus isn't partly God, or walking around with a fraction of God-ness to Him. He is, in Himself, fully God. Elsewhere Paul says that Christ is the *image* of the invisible Father. If you want to know what God looks like, then have a look at Christ.

Now this Jesus, *true God...and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord*. It's this Jesus alone who has redeemed me, purchased and won me, so that I would be His. What goes for Jesus is also promised for you, even life everlasting!

The Fullness of God in Christ!

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

Colossians 2:9

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

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 (11/18): Jeremiah 37:1-21; Matthew 27:33-56

Tuesday (11/19): Jeremiah 38:1-28; Matthew 27:57-66

Wednesday (11/20): Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 28:1-20

Thursday (11/21): Daniel 2:1-23; Revelation 18:1-24

Friday (11/22): Daniel 2:24-49; Revelation 19:1-21

Saturday (11/23): Daniel 3:1-30; Revelation 20:1-15

Sunday (11/24): Daniel 4:1-37; Revelation 21:1-8

Prayer of the Week...

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

Psalm 121

Hymn of the Week... "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

Malachi 3:13-18 Colossians 1:13-20 Luke 23:27-43