

Congregation at Prayer
✠ Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany ✠

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of February 24th to March 2nd*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Normally, people know that they are sinners. No one is so boastful as to go around saying and thinking they're perfect. But even though everyone knows in some sense that he or she is a sinner, no one ever wants to say or think about *how* they sin.

We would much prefer to keep our sin as abstract as possible. That's comfortable. But as soon as you start to say what your sin is—as soon as you begin to confess what troubles you *in particular*, then you recognize how gross a sinner you actually are.

Luther helps us to make our sin concrete. Or to be more accurate, he helps us recognize how concrete our sin actually is! He invites us to consider our place in life—our vocation.

***Are you a father, mother, son, daughter,
husband, wife, or worker?***

What is your position in the home? What is your job? Are you a student or teacher? Are you the boss or an employee? Are you a preacher or hearer, ruler or citizen? We each have been called to many different vocations, in the home, at the work place, in the church, and simply among our day-to-day lives. To find a helpful list of vocations and the duties for each, check out your catechism, section 3: *Table of Duties*. It's also in your hymnal, LSB p.328.

Once you've found your vocations, then run through the 10 Commandments and ask whether you've been faithful in each part. These questions are intended to prick the conscience and show our need for this confession of sin. The 10 Commandments are learned by heart so that we may pray them and be moved to repentance on account of our great need for Christ and the forgiveness of sins that He has won for us.

When you've found your sins to be real and concrete—even troublesome!—then run to the pastor, get your absolution, and take joy in a clear conscience!

Self-Examination of Conscience

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

1 John 1:8-9

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

Confession

What Sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

Daily Readings...

Monday (2/24): Job 19:1-12, 21-27; John 8:1-20

Tuesday (2/25): Job 20:1-23, 29; John 8:21-38

Wednesday (2/26): Job 21:1-21; John 8:39-59

Thursday (2/27): Job 30:16-31; John 9:1-23

Friday (2/28): Job 31:1-12, 33-40; John 9:24-41

Saturday (3/1): Job 33:1-18; John 10:22-42

Sunday (3/2): Job 33:19-34:9; John 11:1-16

Prayer of the Week...

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 103

Hymn of the Week... “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

845

Looking Forward to Next Week...

The Feast of the Transfiguration ~

Exodus 24:8-18

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9