

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ Third Sunday of Easter ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

*[Taken from Luther's Large Catechism, which is in our Book of Concord, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions.]*

**12]** Now, from the fact that it is so solemnly commanded to pray, you are to conclude and think, that no one should by any means despise his prayer, but rather set great store by it, **13]** and always seek an illustration from the other commandments. A child should by no means despise his obedience to father and mother, but should always think: This work is a work of obedience, and what I do I do with no other intention than that I may walk in the obedience and commandment of God, on which I can settle and stand firm, and esteem it a great thing, not on account of my worthiness, but on account of the commandment. So here also, what and for what we pray we should regard as demanded by God and done in obedience to Him, and should reflect thus: On my account it would amount to nothing; but it shall avail, for the reason that God has commanded it. Therefore everybody, no matter what he has to say in prayer, should always come before God in obedience to this commandment.

**14]** We pray, therefore, and exhort every one most diligently to take this to heart and by no means to despise our prayer. For hitherto it has been taught thus in the devil's name that no one regarded these things, and men supposed it to be sufficient to have done the work, whether God would hear it or not. But that is staking prayer on a risk, and murmuring it at a venture; and therefore it is a lost prayer. **15]** For we allow such thoughts as these to lead us astray and deter us: I am not holy or worthy enough; if I were as godly and holy as St. Peter or St. Paul, then I would pray. But put such thoughts far away, for just the same commandment which applied to St. Paul applies also to me; and the Second Commandment is given as much on my account as on his account, so that he can boast of no better or holier commandment.

**16]** Therefore you should say: My prayer is as precious, holy, and pleasing to God as that of St. Paul or of the most holy saints. This is the reason: For I will gladly grant that he is holier in his person, but not on account of the commandment; since God does not regard prayer on account of the person, but on account of His word and obedience thereto. For on the commandment on which all the saints rest their prayer I, too, rest mine. Moreover, I pray for the same thing for which they all pray and ever have prayed; besides, I have just as great a need of it as those great saints, yea, even a greater one than they.

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**Psalm 73:25**

*Whom have I in heaven but you?*

*And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Introduction: Our Father who art in heaven.**

*What does this mean?*

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

**First Petition: Hallowed be Thy name.**

*What does this mean?*

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Daily Readings...

*Monday (5/5): Exodus 33:1-23; Luke 7:1-17*

*Tuesday (5/6): Exodus 34:1-28; Luke 7:18-35*

*Wednesday (5/7): Exodus 34:29-35:21; Luke 7:36-50*

*Thursday (5/8): Exodus 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31; Luke 8:1-21*

*Friday (5/9): Exodus 39:32-40:16; Luke 8:22-39*

*Saturday (5/10): Exodus 40:17-38; Luke 8:40-56*

*Sunday (5/11): Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Luke 9:1-17*

Prayer of the Week...

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

**Psalm 116**

Hymn of the Week... "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

*Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25*

John 10:1-10