

The Congregation at Prayer

To be used for daily devotions
In preparation for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 8th through August 14th

Teaching for the week – *This is the week in Chase County that we look at all the material blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. We will show our livestock and goods. We will buy our products and enjoy our leisure. We call it a fair. It is a time to rejoice. Some will use it as a time of pride and gluttony.*

What makes the difference? How we use the gifts and to whom we give the praise. If we see God as supreme in all things and ourselves as recipients of His grace, then we will be prone to be humble and thankful. But, if we see ourselves as gods and lords, then will self-praise and tear down our neighbor.

When Christ proclaims Himself as the Bread of Life, He does so with a humble spirit. His body will be offered as the bread that will be broken that all men might be saved. In His sacrifice He serves the Father and calls us to praise Him for what He has done. Jesus is humbled to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8) His broken body is now our life-giving Bread.

Take some time this week while you are enjoying the fruits of the earth to remember the Bread that has come down from heaven. Remember that every good gift is from above. (James 1:17) Especially remember that Jesus is the Bread from heaven!

The Order of Prayer

Please be sure to pray aloud if you are able. Even if you are alone. If others are present, have them join you. The Scripture verses, portions of the catechism, and hymns are for meditation and eventual memorization over time.

Theme: The Lord of Life

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments:

Apostle's Creed:

Verse: "Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," (John 6:68, ESV)

Psalm: 34:12-22

The Catechism: (The large one)

²²² You shall not steal.

²²⁴ For to steal is nothing else than to get possession of another's property wrongfully. Briefly, this includes all kinds of advantage in all sorts of trade to the disadvantage of our neighbor. Now, this is indeed quite a widespread and common vice. But it is so little considered and noticed that it surpasses all measure. So if all thieves who did not want to be known as thieves were to be hanged on gallows, the world would soon be devastated. There would be a lack both of executioners and gallows. For, as we have just said, to "steal" means not only emptying our neighbor's money box and pockets. It also means grasping property in the market, in all stores, booths, wine and beer cellars, workshops, and, in short, wherever there is trading or taking and giving of money for merchandise or labor.

²²⁵ Let me explain this somewhat plainly for the common people, that it may be seen how godly we are. For example, consider a manservant or maidservant who does not serve faithfully in the house, does damage, or allows damage to be done when it could be prevented. He ruins and neglects the goods entrusted to him, by laziness, idleness, or hate, to the spite and sorrow of master and mistress.

Readings for the Week:

Day	Reading
Monday	Paul is Arrested in the Temple – Acts 21:18-36
Tuesday	Paul Preaches to the Mob – Acts 21:37-22:16
Wednesday	Paul Is Protected as a Roman Citizen – Acts 22:17-29
Thursday	Paul Appears Before the Sanhedrin – Acts 22:30-23:10
Friday	The Plot Against Paul – Acts 23:11-35
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s Readings – Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Ephesians 5:6-21; John 6:51-69

Prayers: (collect for the week, prayer list, Lord’s Prayer and Luther’s Prayers)

Collect of the week: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

In our prayers this week:

For favorable weather	Mayor Dwight Coleman	Dustin	Beth
Zion Lutheran Church	For our county and city	Joanna	Amy
The Lutheran Church	governments	Sherry	Tyson
Missouri Synod	Residents of Manor and	Wes	Brock
Synodical President	Assisted Living	Phyllis	Rev. Don
Matthew Harrison	Betty	Jack and Ina	Steve
District President Richard	John	Donna	Darlene
Snow	Jana	Edna	Helen
Our Synod’s Seminaries	Cedric	Bonnie	Chanel
Our Sister Churches	Emery	Joan	Betsy
The USA	Gene	Nettie	David
President Joe Biden	Larry	Kendra	Glen
The State of Nebraska	Joan	Elaine	
Governor Pete Ricketts	Wes	Cindy	

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the week: 536 One Thing’s Needful

Looking Forward to 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15th, 2021

Hymns: 624, 536, (621, 878, 626,) 696

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 – This portion of Joshua contains the famous phrase, *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* Joshua was appointed to take the place of Moses and Aaron to lead the people of Israel from their 40 years of desert wandering into the Promised Land. Now, they have the difficulty of remaining true to the Lord who has rescued them from Egypt and kept them alive for 40 years.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:6-21 – Paul continues his encouragement for the believers to walk in a way that resembles their calling. This is a difficult thing in a fallen world. The reason is that we do everything in relation to the actions of our neighbor and the fallen world. But Paul reminds us that everything we do is *“out of reverence for Christ.”* (Ephesians 5:21, ESV)

Gospel: John 6:51-69 – Jesus tells His followers a message the doesn’t make sense. It is a statement that must be received by faith. To feast on the Body and Blood of Jesus is rejected to this day. But for those who have faith we trust what Christ gives in Himself. We echo the words of Peter. *“Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”*” (John 6:68–69, ESV)