

Congregation at Prayer
✠ **The 6th Sunday after Pentecost** ✠

A Guide for Daily Family Prayer
For the Week of July 1st to July 7th

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

Our Lord commands that we eat and drink of His salvation, and He invites us into the promise of His gifts in such eating and drinking. Command and promise come together in this sacred act. If you're not driven to the altar because our Lord commands that you be here, then come because of the great promises of His salvation (and it works the other way round as well!).

In addition to our Lord's command and promise is our need. We *need* the Sacrament. We *need* His body; we *need* His blood. We *need* forgiveness. We *need* His life, His salvation, His grace for our sinful selves. We *need* Jesus.

But how do you know? Could it be that things are really okay? Sure, I might *need* Him later—but now?

We know of our need for Jesus in three main ways. First, check and see if you're still made of flesh and blood. Go ahead—grab your arm, pinch yourself. If so, then see what St. Paul says to the Galatians about the flesh:

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21)

If that's what your flesh is like then you *need* this Sacrament!

But if that doesn't work, then take a look at the newspaper headlines. Are you still in this sinful world where mindless murders and lying politicians rule the day? This world, St. John says, is passing away, along with its sinful desires and prideful passions (1 John 2:17). If the world you dwell in isn't Eden restored, then you *need* the Sacrament!

Finally, can you recognize the works of the devil in and around you? Can you feel his pull and temptations? Can you sense his lies and deceptions? He has a one-tracked mind towards lying and murdering all who come in his way. He won't allow you any peace, not in this life. See what St. Peter says,

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

For these reasons we know for certain of our need for the Lord's body and blood—for these alone forgive all our sins and guarantee for us a life united with Him. We *need* this because apart from Jesus everything else falls short.

But do I need to?

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

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Psalm 91:1

Learn-By-Heart Catechism... **Christian Questions & Their Answers**

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?*

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

Daily Readings...

Monday (7/1): Joshua 6:6-27; Acts 10:18-33

Tuesday (7/2): Joshua 7:1-26; Acts 10:34-48

Wednesday (7/3): Joshua 8:1-28; Acts 11:1-18

Thursday (7/4): Joshua 10:1-25; Acts 11:19-30

Friday (7/5): Joshua 23:1-16; Acts 12:1-25

Saturday (7/6): Joshua 24:1-31; Acts 13:1-12

Sunday (7/7): Judges 2:6-23; Acts 13:13-41

Prayer of the Week...

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; 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 85

Hymn of the Week... “*God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons*” 682

Looking Forward to Next Week...

Isaiah 66:10-14

Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

Luke 10:1-20