

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
 July 26th through August 1st, 2026

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Second Article of the Creed—*Redemption is the theme of the Second Article. It is a word that indicates that we have been “purchased and won” by Christ from Satan who had been our lord and taskmaster. Satan held sinful man and each one of us in his clutches. His power over us was the Law through sin. Because of our sinful rebellion he was able to lay claim to us and hold us under the Law’s condemnation. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, the condemnation of hell, and the power of Satan, by becoming a curse for us under the Law and pouring out His life-blood into death for us. This is how He, as the Seed of the Woman, would “bruise” or “crush” the devil’s headship and authority over man, according to the first promise of the Gospel in Genesis 3:15. “I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed [Satan] and her Seed; He [the woman’s Seed, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary] shall bruise your head [Satan’s power to condemn us] and you [Satan] shall bruise His heel. Christ was “bruised” upon the cross as He trampled Satan underfoot through His suffering and death. Now we have freedom from Satan’s tyranny through faith in Christ. This week’s Bible verse teaches us the wonderful doctrine of the incarnation of the Son of God—the eternal Word of the Father. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Christ’s glory is beheld in His willingness to “tabernacle among us” in human flesh, just like ours, and to suffer on our behalf for our salvation.*

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or use as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: The Church Prays for Faithful Preaching.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and bus that field.

Psalms 26 (antiphon v.12)—Pray the Psalm Daily

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord Jesus, abide with us in these latter days of evil, false doctrine, and unbelief. Grant to Your Church true shepherds and faithful pastors who preach Your Word in its purity, and who lead us in the way of truth. Preserve our souls from being deluded by false wisdom and the teaching of the world that are contrary to Your truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word and faith all the days of our lives; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

The Catechism: The Creed—The Second Article

What is the Second Article of the Creed?	Preschool +
And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...	
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,	First Grade +
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.	Second Grade +



Prayer on the Second Article: Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Second Article of the Creed You teach us that Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the greatest gift of Your love for us. He is truly God, begotten of You from eternity, and He is truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He has become our Lord and Savior by redeeming us from all sins, death, and from the power of the devil with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. We no longer belong to the devil. Sin and death have no power over us. Jesus did all this that we might be His own, and that we might live under Him in His kingdom in the protection and safety of His everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for all eternity. For all that Jesus has done for us we give You thanks and praise. Forgive us for trusting in any work of our own for salvation. Forgive us for doubting Your love and the precious gift of forgiveness we have in Jesus. Grant us, through the grace of Your only-begotten Son, to believe with absolute confidence that our sins are forgiven and that we stand righteous before You for Jesus' sake because He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the week of Trinity 8

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me—Matthew 16:24-28	Isaiah 44:2-8
Tuesday	The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13	Isaiah 44:9-23
Wednesday	A Boy Is Healed—Matthew 17:14-21	Isaiah 44:24-28
Thursday	Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection—Matthew 17:22-27	Isaiah 45:1-13
Friday	Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven—Matthew 18:1-14	Isaiah 45:14-25
Saturday	If Your Brother Sins—Matthew 18:15-22	Isaiah 46:1-13

Prayers: Collects for the Week; Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Week of the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week (See Bulletin)

Lord's Prayer and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week *From God Can Nothing Move Me*

LSB #713

Looking forward to the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 2nd 2026

Hymns: 726, 730, 619, 696, 637, 758, 628, 643, 819

2 Samuel 22:26-34: This passage of Second Samuel records for us part of the text that Jesus used in teaching the parable of the Unjust Steward. It speaks of how the Lord Himself is more shrewd and clever than even the most shrewd and clever of men: "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down" (vs. 26-28).

1 Corinthians 10:6-13: St. Paul uses the example of Old Testament Israel to warn the Corinthian Christians against the danger of idolatry (false faith and worship) which evidences itself in sexual immorality, murmuring, and complaining against the Lord. The end of such idolatry is the loss of faith and eternal death. This warning against the danger of idolatry is intended to draw us to the One Man, Christ Jesus, who alone can deliver us from these dangers in the time of such temptation: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (vs. 12-13).

Luke 16:1-13: "The master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly" (Luke 16:1-9). The steward's shrewdness is praiseworthy for two reasons. First, he knew the master would be merciful. He trusted that the master would honor the debts he forgave in the master's name. In the same way, though we have squandered our heavenly Father's possessions in selfishness and sin, Jesus is the Steward who has canceled our debt, knowing that His forgiveness will be honored by the Father because of the holy cross. Secondly, the steward was shrewd in using oil and wheat to provide for his earthly welfare. So also do these earthly elements aid us when pressed into heavenly use in the anointing of baptism and the wheat of the Lord's Supper. Those who have the Sacraments will have an eternal home when the earthly fails. These are our escape in temptation (1 Cor. 10:6-13). For the Lord is our strength and a shield to all who trust in Him (2 Sam 22:26-34).—Excerpted from the LSB hymnal project