

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Sixth Sunday after Trinity
(July 7th – July 13th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

The Sacred Institution of Marriage

This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Sacred Institution of Marriage

Even before the fall into sin (Gen. 3), the Lord had given marriage as a good and perfect gift. This means that, when everything was still “very good,” men and women had been given a sacred institution in which they would live life united to one another, and from which life would proceed. As a man would “leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they (would) become one flesh,” life was preserved, men and women were cared for, and children were blessed with two parents to provide and protect them. After the fall, in subsequent generations, humanity becomes divided among itself. Throughout history, God has preserved for Himself a people, but the gift of marriage has been given to all people, and has provided stability to all societies, Christian or not. This week's catechetical material encourages us to consider this sacred gift: the institution of marriage.

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

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: Excerpts from the Book of Concord on Marriage
In as much as this commandment is concerned specifically with the estate of marriage and gives occasion to speak of it, let us carefully note, first, how highly God honors and glorifies the married life, sanctioning and protecting it by his (6th) commandment (LC I, 206). Ever since man sinned, natural desire and the lust that inflames it come together; therefore marriage is more necessary now than in the state of purity. ...Hence Paul speaks of marriage as a remedy and commands it because of these flaming passions. Because human authority, regulations, and vows cannot abolish either nature or lust, they cannot abolish the statement, “It is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.” Thus anyone who is aflame retains the right to marry (Ap XXIII, 16). Christ calls marriage a divine union when he says in Matt. 19:6, “what God has joined together.” Paul says marriage, food, and similar things are “consecrated by the word of God and prayer” (1 Tim. 4:5): by the Word which assures the conscience that God approves, and by prayer, that is, by faith which uses it gratefully as a gift of God (Ap XXIII, 29-30).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Christ Came to Fulfill the Law Matthew 5:17-26		Psalm 108

Monday	Marriage Is Instituted Genesis 2:18-25	Nehemiah 7	Psalm 109
Tuesday	Marriage Is Protected Exodus 20:14 & Deuteronomy 5:18	Nehemiah 8	Psalm 110
Wednesday	Jesus' Teaching on Marriage Matthew 5:27-32	Nehemiah 9	Psalm 111
Thursday	Jesus' Teaching on Marriage Matthew 19:1-2	Nehemiah 10	Psalm 112
Friday	Marriage as an Icon of Christ Ephesians 5:1-5, 22-33	Nehemiah 11	Psalm 113
Saturday	The Creation of man and Woman Genesis 2:7-17	Slaves to Righteousness Romans 6:19-23	Psalm 114

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon - Fri:** What does the day's reading teach you about the sacred institution of marriage? Who gifts it? Who benefits from it? Are there certain specific duties associated with it? Does the Lord desire to protect it? How does marriage—understood rightly—reveal the nature of God to us? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Our Country. For Circuit Vacancies: Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Shelby Maschhoff. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Kim Childress (David Childress' Sister) Marilyn Edwards, Mike Eggerman, Brad Hunt (Vernon & Carolyn's Son-In-Law), Dawna Wander (Friend of Dave Childress), Sherri Williams. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments/Testing:** Eli Kuper, Marla Corry, Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann. **Baptismal Birthday:** Heidi Hanke (7/7), Cindy Hoffmann (7/8), Lois Michael (7/9). **Wedding Anniversary:** Rob & Tammy Gerstenecker (7/10).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Month: All Christians Who Have Been Baptized (LSB 596)