

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
(July 21st – July 27th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

The Family – Living in the Holy Estate of Marriage

This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Family – Living in the Holy Estate of Marriage

Last week we began exploring the vocations of husband and wife, which are given by God in creation as an image—an icon—of Christ and the Church. But this fundamental relationship is so important, and the Scriptures have much to say, so we'll spend another week exploring the holy estate of marriage. Actually, we'll spend this week looking at some passages which describe the calling of husbands and wives who find themselves in marriages that aren't, well, picture perfect. When one spouse happens to fall into sin, or one is an unbeliever, how does a Christian respond? Should he or she remain? Should he or she abandon the relationship? And what if you aren't married, does that mean you're somehow incomplete? God's Word is clear, and although it is not easy, it is our firm foundation, and so we will spend this week exploring what the Bible teaches us about remaining in marriage for better or for worse.

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

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Large Catechism: The Sixth Commandment

So by this commandment God wishes to build a hedge round about [Job 1:10] and protect every spouse so that no one trespasses against him or her (LC I, 205). Married life is, therefore, no joke or presumption. It is an excellent thing and a matter of divine seriousness. For marriage has the highest importance to God so that people are raised up who may serve the world and promote the knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, to fight against wickedness and the devil (LC I, 207).

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	A Tree and Its Fruit Matthew 7:15-23		Psalm 122
Monday	Teaching About Marriage 1 Corinthians 7:1-16	Esther 4	Psalm 123
Tuesday	The Unmarried and Widowed 1 Corinthians 7:25-35	Esther 5	Psalm 124
Wednesday	Life-long Union 1 Corinthians 7:36-40	Esther 6	Psalm 125

Thursday	Not Easily Broken Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Esther 8	Psalm 126
Friday	Nothing Can Separate You Romans 8:35-39	Esther 9	Psalm 127
Saturday	2 Samuel 22:26-34	1 Cor. 10:6-13	Psalm 1287

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon **Mon-Wed:** What does today's passage teach us about the vocations of husband and wife? Are these vocations temporary? Will our marriages always be perfect? Does the passage have anything to say to those who aren't married? What is the benefit of being married? **Thur:** What is the three-fold cord? Who is at the center of a Christian marriage? How will this serve to keep husband and wife united together? Why are two better than one? What does this passage have to teach us about those who are—or desire to be—married? **Fri:** How does this passage describe the love of God in Christ? Is it temporary? Can it be ended? Can anything separate you from it? How might this be a good passage to keep in mind when thinking about Christian marriage? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:6)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Circuit Vacancies: Messiah Lutheran (Carlyle). **For Those Expecting:** Shelby Maschhoff. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Kim Childress (David Childress' Sister) Marilyn Edwards, 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:** Tracy Schilling (7/21), Alayna French, Julie Nolte (7/22), Elisha Brinkmann (7/26). **Wedding Anniversaries:** Ron & Lynn Michael (7/26).

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)