

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
June 30 – July 6, AD 2024

It is truly a profound and gracious gift of God that through His Church He richly daily forgives our sins. He doesn't do this through magical incantations but through the simple word of absolution which He Himself speaks through His called and ordained ministers. But many will say "Only God can forgive sins." And that is true. The psalmist writes "Against You [God], You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight." (Psalm 51:4) But God chooses to declare His forgiveness through pastors. He authorizes pastors to speak on His behalf, just as ambassadors speak on behalf of the President of the United States. God wants you to hear a living voice and hear His promise of forgiveness. That is why the Lord Jesus established the Office of the Keys, promising to you that when the pastor forgives your sins, it is not his forgiveness but God's forgiveness. And you can hear this forgiveness as often as you need, as often as you are aware of and troubled by your sin. Christ has seen your need and graciously met it. Let us rejoice in the Office of the Keys which Christ has established in His Church and make full use of it as He wants us to.

The Catechism

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (**John 20:22-23**)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES' CREED

Proverbs 3:5 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Psalm 145

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"If God Himself Be for Me" (LSB 724)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT5Gb8KiVmw>

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

① SUNDAY	LUKE 5:1-11	
② MONDAY	ACTS 19:21-41	ROMANS 10:1-13
③ TUESDAY	ACTS 20:1-16 ¹	ROMANS 10:14-21
④ WEDNESDAY	ACTS 20:17-38	ROMANS 11:1-10
⑤ THURSDAY	ACTS 21:1-17	ROMANS 11:11-21
⑥ FRIDAY	ACTS 21:18-36	ROMANS 11:22-36
⑦ SATURDAY	ACTS 21:37—22:16	ROMANS 12:1-8

¹ THE VISITATION – LUKE 1:39-45

PRAYERS

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY: *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

MONDAY: *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

TUESDAY: *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

WEDNESDAY: *For marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; parents who must rear their children alone; for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

THURSDAY: *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

FRIDAY: *For the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

SATURDAY: *For faithfulness to the end; the physically and mentally sick and those who are dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Those serving in synodical offices, especially Matthew Harrison, Synodical President; Michael Newman, Texas District President; Scott Sundbye, Circuit Visitor, and Ben Gonzales, Mission Strategist.
- Chris Purcell who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Pastor and Adeline Ulmer as they recover from pneumonia.
- Birthdays: Amanda Curry (5), Jocelyn Reif (5)
- Baptismal Birthdays: Dony Reaves (2); Cassandra Tiro (3)
- Wedding Anniversaries: Tim and Tula Sheehan (1)
- Leah Savage and Rebekah Burns for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Alissa Ulmer, Doug Drawe, Ethan Sims, Mary Hart, Dony Reaves, Antonia, Margie Best, Jim Graff, Mary Cone, Luella Terry, Devin Jackson, Karl Dornseifer.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

Catechism: The Second Article explanation

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity – July 7, 2024

Hymns: 904, 562, 581, 619, 557, 865, 596

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 5:17-26

