

FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

July 20 – July 26, AD 2025

Everything we poor sinners receive in this life from God, we receive through means, most all of which are quite ordinary. God blesses us with work to put food on our table. If there is no work, He blesses us with food pantries and neighbors who graciously share their bounty with us. He gives us life and salvation through water, bread, and wine. Is it any surprise then that our Lord has appointed ordinary men, like Peter, like Luther, like your pastor, men who are not impressive to the eye and who are filled with sin just like you, to speak His forgiveness to you? This past Sunday we heard about Peter kneeling in the boat before Jesus, confessing his sins and hearing Jesus speak those beautiful words “Do not be afraid.” And maybe we think, “Well, I would definitely go and confess my sins to Jesus and hear Him forgive me if He were here.” But Jesus has done something even greater. You don’t have to travel to distant lands to find Jesus. Instead, He comes to you by calling and ordaining pastors all over the world to stand in His stead. By His explicit command, pastors are under strict orders to forgive repentant sinners like you, speaking those precious words “I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Simply drive to church or ask your pastor to come to your house or your work or call him on the phone and demand that he carry out his sacred vocation of forgiving your sins by Christ’s authority. As faith hears the absolution spoken by the pastor, it hears Jesus saying, “If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven, if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Do not doubt but firmly believe this glorious promise of Christ and receive from your pastor, as from Christ our dear Lord Himself, the forgiveness which Jesus has won for you.

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 the 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

James 5:16 – *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Psalm 138

HYMN OF THE MONTH

"Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide" (LSB 585)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

① SUNDAY	LUKE 5:1-11	
② MONDAY	LUKE 14:1-14	LAMENTATIONS 3:19-33
③ TUESDAY	JOHN 20:1-2, 10-18	PROVERBS 31:10-31
④ WEDNESDAY	LUKE 14:15-35	LAMENTATIONS 3:55-66
⑤ THURSDAY	LUKE 15:1-10	LAM. 5:1-9, 15-22
⑥ FRIDAY	ACTS 11:27—12:5	MARK 10:35-45
⑦ SATURDAY	EXODUS 20:1-17	ROMANS 6:1-11

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 in our congregation who are homebound: Judy Michels, Melanie Obenhaus, Vicky Cantrell, Dony Reaves, Connie Kimber.
- The family of Lee Strayer, friend of the Lowery's, who fell asleep in Christ this past Sunday.
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Amanda Curry (22), Cooper Thibodeaux (26).
- Baptismal birthdays celebrated this week: Ruth Kun (20), Brad Lowery (21), Gil Daughtrey (22), Leland Gardner (23), Shad Reif (24), Rebecca Schwiesow (25).
- Those experiencing unemployment: Matt, Greg.
- Grace Hendrickson, Amanda Needham, Rachel Rojas, and Mariah Scholz for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Dony Reaves, Connie Kimber, Doug Drawe, Antonia, Deanna, Dana Evans, Gaye, Georgette, Jill, Rachel Preuss, Kristina Wishmeyer, Jeannie Long, JE Purcell, Gene Obenhaus, Ron Lane, Maureen Rump, Abbe Fenner, Toni McClure, Sarah Wickam, Judy Michels, Randy Cooper.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity – July 27, 2025

The Creed: The Second Article and Explanation

Hymns: 904, 562, 581, 619, 557, 865, 585

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

