

**Congregation at Prayer
2021
A Daily Devotional for St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA**



**Sixth Week after Pentecost
Summer Week #7-Year 2
July 4-July 10, 2021**

Start Every Day

Speak or chant: Psalm 119 (Kaph & Lamed)

recite APOSTLE'S CREED

VERSE: Mark 10:6-8a **“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’
‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become
one flesh.’”**

Sunday, July 4 (Independence Day)

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (Sermon Text, 6th Sunday after Pentecost)
 - CHRYSOSTOM: Accordingly, whether we have our requests granted or not, let us persist in asking and render thanks not only when we gain what we ask but also when we fail to. Failure to gain, you see, when that is what God wants, is not worse than succeeding; we do not know what is to our advantage in this regard in the way he does understand. The result is, then, that succeeding or failing we ought to give thanks. Why are you surprised that we don't know what is to our advantage? Paul, a man of such quality and stature, judged worthy of ineffable blessings, did not know what was advantageous in his requests: when he saw himself beset with trouble and diverse tribulations, he prayed to be rid of them, not once or twice but many times. “Three times I asked the Lord,” he says....

“Three” means he asked frequently without success. So let us see how he was affected by it: surely he didn’t take it badly? He didn’t turn fainthearted, did he? He didn’t become dispirited, did he? Not at all. On the contrary, what? God said, “My grace is sufficient for you; my power has its full effect in weakness.” Not only did he not free him of the troubles afflicting him, but he even allowed him to persevere in them. True enough; but how does it emerge that he did not take it badly? Listen to Paul’s own words when he learned what the Lord had decided: “I will gladly boast of my weaknesses.” Not only, he says, do I no longer seek to be rid of them, but I even boast of them with greater satisfaction. Do you see his grateful spirit? Do you see his love for God?... So we ought to yield to the Creator of our nature, and with joy and great relish accept those things that he has decided on and have an eye not to the appearance of events but to the decisions of the Lord. After all, he who knows better than we what is for our benefit also knows what steps must be taken for our salvation. HOMILIES ON GENESIS 30.16.¹

- **Pray the Collect for Independence Day**

- Eternal Father, Ruler of all nations, on this day when my country celebrates its birth, I thank You for all spiritual and temporal blessings enjoyed in our land. In Your mercy, You have sustained this nation in times of trouble and preserved its liberties. Teach me anew to treasure especially that dearly won freedom of conscience and worship that is the cornerstone of this country’s principles. Let me not misuse this liberty nor forget that true freedom is freedom to serve. Give me willingness to share in the process of democratic rule, to respect my country’s laws, and to work for the preservation of its institutions. Forgive our past sins committed as a nation in the name of misguided patriotism, self-interest, or political expediency. Confound all those who, for the sake of partisanship or other motives, would sacrifice the greater welfare. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Strengthen all those who strive to do Your will. Increase loyalty to You and to our beloved country. Protect me and my fellow citizens from all subversive or terrorist acts. Above all, dear God, speed the course of Your Gospel among us, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, hearts are turned to that freedom from sin and death that You alone graciously give through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday, July 5 (Isaiah)

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Mark 10:13-16 (Jesus Blesses the Children)
- **About Isaiah, the Prophet**

Isaiah son of Amoz is considered to be the greatest of the writing prophets and is quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament prophet. His name means “Yahweh *the Lord+ saves.” Isaiah prophesied to the people of Jerusalem and Judah from about 740 B.C. to 700 B.C. and was a contemporary of the prophets Amos, Hosea, and Micah. Isaiah was a fierce preacher of God's Law, condemning the sin of idolatry. He was also a comforting proclaimer of the Gospel, repeatedly emphasizing God's grace and forgiveness. For this he is sometimes called the “Evangelist of the Old Testament.” No prophet more clearly prophesied about the coming Messiah and his saving kingdom. He foretold the Messiah's miraculous birth (Is 7:14; 9:6), his endless reign (Is 2:1–5; 11:1–16), and his public

¹ Gerald Lewis Bray, ed., [1–2 Corinthians](#), Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 306–307.

ministry (Is 61:1–3), but most notably his “Suffering Servant” role and atoning death (52:13—53:12). The apostle John's description of Isaiah, that Isaiah saw Jesus' glory and spoke of him (John 12:41), is an apt summary of Isaiah's prophetic ministry.

Tuesday, July 6

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Mark 10:17-31 (The Rich Young Ruler)

Wednesday, July 7

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Mark 10:32-45 (Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time)

Thursday, July 8

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Mark 10:46-52 (Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus)

Friday, July 9

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Mark 11:12-19 (The Fig Tree and the Cleansing of the Temple)

Saturday, July 10

- Catechism: The Ten Commandments—5th Commandment and Meaning
- Read Amos 7:7-15 (Old Testament Lesson, 7th Sunday after Pentecost)

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE (from *Lutheran Service Book*) by CPH

Sunday:	Acts 11:19-30
Monday:	Acts 12:1-25
Tuesday:	Acts 13:1-12
Wednesday:	Acts 13:13-41
Thursday:	Acts 13:42-52
Friday:	Acts 14:1-18
Saturday:	Acts 14:19-15:5

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 6th Sunday after Pentecost

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through

Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD'S PRAYER**

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CATECHETICAL HYMN *from Lutheran Service Book*

454 "Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle"