

Daily Devotions for Home and Family

For the Week of Pentecost

May 20 through May 26

[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]

⁸⁶ Faith alone justifies because we receive the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit by faith alone. The reconciled are accounted righteous and children of God not on account of their own purity but by mercy on account of Christ, if they grasp this mercy by faith. Thus the Scriptures testify that we are accounted righteous by faith. We shall therefore add clear testimonies stating that faith is the very righteousness by which we are accounted righteous before God. This is not because it is a work worthy in itself, but because it receives God's promise that for Christ's sake he wishes to be propitious to believers in Christ and because it believes that "God made Christ our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).

⁸⁷ In the Epistle to the Romans, especially, Paul deals with this subject and states that when we believe that God is reconciled to us for Christ's sake we are justified freely by faith. In chap. 3 he advances this conclusion, embodying the basic issue of the whole discussion: "We hold that man is justified by faith apart from works of law" (Rom. 3:28). This our opponents interpret as referring to Levitical ceremonies, but Paul is talking about the whole law, not only about ceremonies. For later on he quotes the Decalogue, "You shall not covet" (Rom. 7:7). If moral works merited the forgiveness of sins and justification, there would be no need for Christ and the promise, and everything that Paul says about the promise would be overthrown. Then he would have been wrong in writing to the Ephesians (2:8) that we are saved freely by "the gift of God, not because of works." Paul also mentions Abraham and David, who had God's command regarding circumcision (Rom. 4:1-6). If any works justified, therefore, surely these works, having a command, would have to justify. But Paul is talking about the whole law, as Augustine correctly maintains in his lengthy discussion on *The Spirit and the Letter*, where he says toward the end, "Having therefore considered and discussed these matters according to the ability that the Lord saw fit to grant us, we conclude that a man is not justified by the precepts of a good life, but through faith in Jesus Christ."⁵

⁸⁸ And lest we suppose that Paul made the statement "Faith justifies" inadvertently, he reinforces and confirms it with a long discussion in Rom. 4 and repeats it later in all his epistles.

⁸⁹ In Rom. 4:4, 5 he says, "To one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but are his due. And to one who does not work but trusts in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness." Here he clearly says that faith itself is accounted for righteousness. It is faith, therefore, that God declares to be righteousness; he adds that it is accounted freely and denies that it could be accounted freely if it were a reward for works. Therefore he excludes even the merit of works according to the moral law; for if by these we earned justification before God, faith would not be accounted for righteousness without works.

⁹⁰ And afterwards (Rom. 4:9) Paul says, "We say that faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness." ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. IV:86-90

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Psalm – 139:1-12

The Catechism – *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Second*

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” *Mark 16:16*

Daily Readings:

Sunday, May 20 – Luke 21:20-38

Monday, May 21 – Luke 22:1-23 (*Commemoration of Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler; and Helena, Mother of Constantine*)

Tuesday, May 22 – Luke 22:24-46

Wednesday, May 23 – Luke 22:47-71

Thursday, May 24 – Luke 23:1-25 (*Commemoration of Esther*)

Friday, May 25 – Luke 23:26-56 (*Commemoration of Venerable Bede; Theologian*)

Saturday, May 26 – Luke 24:1-27

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church	Thelma Stegemann	Michael Seeger
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	Irene Jones	Kathy Schneemann
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Florence Vollmer	Karl Ott
The Atlantic District	Susan Marotta	Don Lang
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	Stacy Harris	Deanna Schwartzman
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Jim Sclafani	Nancy Galasso
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Andrew Brooks	Diane Dadone
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Lorraine Keller	Allison Ruddick
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Elizabeth Gaiser	Donald Smith
Concordia College – New York	Ernie Getzelman	Joe Sanzano
The Rev. John Nunes	Lisa Harris	Philip Latham
The Concordia University System	Louise Blydenburgh	Pat Simmons
Lutheran Parochial Schools	Thelma DeJoseph	Cathy Ochs
Our Sister Churches	Al DeJoseph	John Kelly
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Madison Coffey	Lois Eckert
The United States of America	Peter DiMartini	Reginold Kennedy
President Donald Trump	William Rossiter	Christine Whitman
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Larry Dimiceli	Jennifer Whitman
U.S. Military Personnel	Suzanne Weil	Annmarie Diehl
All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers	Frances Flanagan	Edward Karen
Judy Fisher	Richard Duffy	Barbara Moir
Alice Dreher	Marge Glass	Jack Lovell
	Bubby Verspoor	George Becker
	Aline Duval	Charles Tichy
	Lenny Kiesling	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Rob Arrasate	The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo Coffey
	Josephine Lowth	Alexandria Rappe
	James McMorris	Ann Inoue
	Jim Arrasate	
	Lee Sclafani	

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) 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.

(Evening) 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.

Hymn for the Week – *Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*

LSB #497, st. 1

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord,
With all Your graces now outpoured
On each believers mind and heart;
Your fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Your light
In holy faith Your Church unite;
From ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue
This to Your praise, O Lord, our God be sung:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The Holy Trinity:

Isaiah 6:1-8

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

John 3:1-17