

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 12 through August 18

[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]

¹⁸¹ Therefore, if we are to seek justification and peace of conscience elsewhere than in our love and works, love and works do not justify; still they are virtues, in keeping with the righteousness of the law, to the extent that they fulfill the law. And to that extent this obedience of the law justifies by the righteousness of the law. But God accepts this imperfect righteousness of the law only because of faith. Therefore it does not justify; that is, it neither reconciles nor regenerates nor of itself makes us acceptable before God.

¹⁸² From this it is evident that we are justified before God by faith alone, since by faith alone we receive the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation for Christ's sake, and reconciliation or justification is something promised because of Christ, not because of the law. Therefore it is received by faith alone, though the keeping of the law follows with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸³ With the acknowledgment of the fundamentals in this issue (namely, the distinction between the law and the promises or Gospel) it will be easy to refute the opponents' objections. For they quote passages about law and works but omit passages about the promises.

¹⁸⁴ To all their statements about the law we answer immediately that the law cannot be kept without Christ, and that if civil works are done without Christ they do not please God. In commending works, therefore, we must add that faith is necessary, and that they are commended because of faith as its fruit or testimony. ¹⁸⁵ Ambiguous and dangerous issues produce many and varied solutions. For the word of the ancient poet is true, "Being sick in itself, an unjust cause needs wise remedies."³ But in just and sure issues, one or two explanations, taken from the sources, will correct everything that seems offensive. This is the case in our discussion. The rule I have just stated interprets all the passages they quote on law and works.

¹⁸⁶ For we concede that in some places the Scripture presents the law, while in others it presents the Gospel, the free promise of the forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake. But by their denial that faith justifies and by their doctrine that because of our love and works we receive the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation, our opponents simply abolish this free promise.

¹⁸⁷ If the forgiveness of sins were conditional upon our works, it would be completely unsure and the promise would be abolished.

¹⁸⁸ Therefore we call upon devout minds to consider the promises, and we teach them about the free forgiveness of sins and the reconciliation that comes through faith in Christ. Later we add the teaching of the law. And we must distinguish between these, as Paul says (2 Tim. 2:15). We must see what the Scriptures ascribe to the law and what they ascribe to the promises. For they praise works in such a way as not to remove the free promise. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art.

IV:181-188

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 – 34:1-8

The Catechism – *Sacrament of the Altar*

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Daily Readings:

Sunday, August 12 – 1 Corinthians 6:1-20

Monday, August 13 – 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Tuesday, August 14 – 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Wednesday, August 15 – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (*Feast of St. Mary, Mother of our Lord' suggested add'l reading: Isaiah 61:7-11*)

Thursday, August 16 – 1 Corinthians 9:1-23 (*Commemoration of Isaac*)

Friday, August 17 – 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:22 (*Commemoration of Johann Gerhard, Theologian*)

Saturday, August 18 – 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16

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

Prayers

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, 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	Donald Smith
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	Irene Jones	Philip Latham
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Florence Vollmer	Pat Simmons
The Atlantic District	Susan Marotta	Cathy Ochs
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	Stacy Harris	John Kelly
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Jim Sclafani	Lois Eckert
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Andrew Brooks	Reginold Kennedy
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Lorraine Keller	Christine Whitman
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Elizabeth Gaiser	Jennifer Whitman
Concordia College – New York	Ernie Getzelman	Annmarie Diehl
The Rev. John Nunes	Lisa Harris	Edward Karen
The Concordia University System	Louise Blydenburgh	George Becker
Lutheran Parochial Schools	Suzanne Weil	Charles Tichy
Our Sister Churches	Frances Flanagan	Linda Krol
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Richard Duffy	Larry Harris
The United States of America	Marge Glass	Cassie Forrest
President Donald Trump	Bubby Verspoor	Steven Roth
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Lenny Kiesling	Karen Salamone
U.S. Military Personnel	Rob Arrasate	Geralyn Morgan
All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers	Josephine Lowth	Bob Hunter
	Lee Sclafani	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Michael Seeger	The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo Coffey
	Kathy Schneemann	Alexandria Rappe
	Don Lang	Ann Inoue
	Deanna Schwartzman	
	Nancy Galasso	
	Diane Dadone	
	Allison Ruddick	

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 – *Father, We Thank Thee*

LSB #652, st.1

Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.
Thou, Lord dist make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give us food for all our days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.

Closing Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The 13th Sunday after Pentecost:

Proverbs 9:1-10

Ephesians 5:6-21

John 6:51-69