

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 15 through July 21

[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]

¹⁴⁷ But someone may ask: Since we also grant that love is the work of the Holy Spirit and since it is righteousness because it is the keeping of the law, why do we deny that it justifies? To this we must answer, first of all, that we do not receive the forgiveness of sins through love or on account of love, but on account of Christ by faith alone. ¹⁴⁸ Faith alone, looking to the promise and believing with full assurance that God forgives because Christ did not die in vain, conquers the terrors of sin and death.

¹⁴⁹ If somebody doubts that his sins are forgiven, he insults Christ because he thinks that his sin is greater and stronger than the death and promise of Christ, though Paul says that grace abounded more than sin (Rom. 5:20), that mercy is more powerful than sin. ¹⁵⁰ If somebody believes that he obtains the forgiveness of sins because he loves, he insults Christ and in God's judgment he will discover that this trust in his own righteousness was wicked and empty. Therefore it must be faith that reconciles and justifies. ¹⁵¹ We do not receive the forgiveness of sins by other virtues of the law or on account of them (whether patience, chastity, or obedience to the government, etc.), even though these virtues must follow. Just as little do we receive the forgiveness of sins on account of love, though it, too, must follow. ¹⁵² There is a familiar figure of speech, called synecdoche, by which we sometimes combine cause and effect in the same phrase. Christ says in Luke 7:47, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, because she loved much." But he interprets his own words when he adds: "Your faith has saved you" (v. 50). Now Christ did not want to say that by her works of love the woman had merited the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵³ Therefore he clearly says, "Your faith has saved you." But faith is that which grasps God's free mercy because of God's Word. If anybody denies that this is faith, he utterly misunderstands the nature of faith. ¹⁵⁴ And the account here shows what he calls "love." The woman came, believing that she should seek the forgiveness of sins from Christ. This is the highest way of worshiping Christ. Nothing greater could she ascribe to him. By looking for the forgiveness of sins from him, she truly acknowledged him as the Messiah. Truly to believe means to think of Christ in this way, and in this way to worship and take hold of him. Moreover, Christ used the word "love" not toward the woman but against the Pharisee, because Christ contrasted the whole act of reverence of the Pharisee with that of the woman. He chides the Pharisee for not acknowledging him as the Messiah, though he did show him the outward courtesies due a guest and a great and holy man. He points to the woman and praises her reverence, her anointing and crying, all of which were a sign and confession of faith that she was looking for the forgiveness of sins from Christ. It was not without reason that this truly powerful example moved Christ to chide the Pharisee, this wise and honest but unbelieving man. He charges him with irreverence and reproves him with the example of the woman. What a disgrace that an uneducated woman should believe God, while a doctor of the law does not believe or accept the Messiah or seek from him the forgiveness of sins and salvation!

¹⁵⁵ In this way, therefore, he praises her entire act of worship, as the Scriptures often do when they include many things in one phrase. Later we shall take up similar passages, like Luke 11:41, "Give alms; and behold, everything is clean." He demands not only alms, but also the righteousness of faith. In the same way he says here, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, because she loved much," that is, because she truly worshiped me with faith and with the acts and signs of faith. He includes the whole act of worship; but meanwhile he teaches that it is faith that properly accepts the forgiveness of sins, though love, confession, and other good fruits ought to follow. He does not mean that these fruits are the price of propitiation which earns the forgiveness of sins that reconciles us to God. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. IV:147-155

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 – 85:8-13

The Catechism – *Confession & Office of the Keys*

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.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, July 15 – Galatians 3:23-4:11

Monday, July 16 – Galatians 4:12-31 (*Commemoration of Ruth*)

Tuesday, July 17 – Galatians 5:1-26

Wednesday, July 18 – Galatians 6:1-18

Thursday, July 19 – Acts 15:22-41

Friday, July 20 – Acts 16:1-22 (*Commemoration of Elijah*)

Saturday, July 21 – Acts 16:23-40 (*Commemoration of Ezekiel*)

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

Prayers

O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, 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	All Fire, Police, and EMS	Deanna Schwartzman
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	workers and volunteers	Nancy Galasso
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Thelma Stegemann	Diane Dadone
The Atlantic District	Irene Jones	Allison Ruddick
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	Florence Vollmer	Donald Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Susan Marotta	Philip Latham
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Stacy Harris	Pat Simmons
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Jim Sclafani	Cathy Ochs
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Andrew Brooks	John Kelly
Concordia College – New York	Lorraine Keller	Lois Eckert
The Rev. John Nunes	Elizabeth Gaiser	Reginold Kennedy
The Concordia University System	Ernie Getzelman	Christine Whitman
Lutheran Parochial Schools	Lisa Harris	Jennifer Whitman
Our Sister Churches	Louise Blydenburgh	Annamarie Diehl
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Suzanne Weil	Edward Karen
The United States of America	Frances Flanagan	Barbara Moir
President Donald Trump	Richard Duffy	Jack Lovell
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Marge Glass	George Becker
U.S. Military Personnel	Bubby Verspoor	Charles Tichy
	Lenny Kiesling	Linda Krol
	Rob Arrasate	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Josephine Lowth	The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo Coffey
	Jim Arrasate	Alexandria Rappe
	Lee Sclafani	Ann Inoue
	Michael Seeger	
	Kathy Schneemann	
	Don Lang	

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 – *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

LSB #743, st.6

Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Closing Blessing

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

Looking ahead for The Feast of St. Mary Magdalene:

Proverbs 31:10-31

Acts 13:26-31

John 20:1-2, 10-18