

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21 through May 27

XXVIII. THE POWER OF BISHOPS

²³ On the other hand, if they teach, introduce, or institute anything contrary to the Gospel, we have God’s command not to be obedient in such cases, for Christ says in Matt. 7:15, “Beware of false prophets.”

²⁴ St. Paul also writes in Gal. 1:8, “Even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed,”

²⁵ and in 2 Cor. 13:8, “We cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.”

²⁶ Again Paul refers to “the authority which the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.”⁵

²⁷ Canon law requires the same in Part II, Question 7, in the chapters “Sacerdotes” and “Oves.”⁶

²⁸ St. Augustine also writes in his reply to the letters of Petilian that one should not obey even regularly elected bishops if they err or if they teach or command something contrary to the divine Holy Scriptures.⁷

²⁹ Whatever other power and jurisdiction bishops may have in various matters (for example, in matrimonial cases and in tithes),⁸ they have these by virtue of human right. However, when bishops are negligent in the performance of such duties, the princes are obliged, whether they like to or not, to administer justice to their subjects for the sake of peace and to prevent discord and great disorder in their lands.

³⁰ Besides, there is dispute as to whether bishops have the power to introduce ceremonies in the church or establish regulations concerning foods, holy days, and the different orders of the clergy.

³¹ Those who attribute such power to bishops cite Christ’s saying in John 16:12, 13, “I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”⁹

³² They also cite the example in Acts 15:20, 29, where the eating of blood and what is strangled was forbidden.

³³ Besides, they appeal to the fact that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday—contrary, as they say, to the Ten Commandments. No case is appealed to and urged so insistently as the change of the Sabbath, for thereby they wish to maintain that the power of the church is indeed great because the church has dispensed from and altered part of the Ten Commandments. ~ The Augsburg Confession, XXVIII:23-33

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 – 107:1-9

The Catechism – *The Lord's Prayer – The Seventh Petition*

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, May 21 – Luke 14:25-15:10 (*Commemoration of Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler; and Helena, Mother of Constantine*)

Monday, May 22 – Luke 15:11-32

Tuesday, May 23 – Luke 16:1-18

Wednesday, May 24 – Luke 16:19-31 (*Commemoration of Esther*)

Thursday, May 25 – Luke 17:1-19 (*The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord; suggested add'l reading: Acts 1:1-11; Commemoration of Bede the Venerable, Theologian*)

Friday, May 26 – Luke 17:20-37

Saturday, May 27 – Luke 18:1-17

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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:

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|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| St. John's Lutheran Church | Madison Coffey | Nancy Merrihue |
| The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod | William Rossiter | Allison Miller |
| The Rev. Matthew Harrison | Stacy Harris | Michael Spreckels |
| The Atlantic District | Thelma Stegemann | Franklyn Richardson |
| The Rev. Derek Lecakes | Tom Conte | Rose Carrano |
| Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne | Marie Conte | Laura Smeallie |
| The Rev. Lawrence Rast | Rosemary Merrill | Frances Flanagan |
| Concordia Seminary, St. Louis | Patrice Vitalino | Susan Duffy |
| The Rev. Dale Meyer | Thelma DeJoseph | Richard Duffy |
| Concordia College – New York | Al DeJoseph | Marge Glass |
| The Rev. John Nunes | David Bayley | Bubby Verspoor |
| The Concordia University System | Alison Vessie | Irene Jones |
| Lutheran Parochial Schools | Suzanne Weil | Joanne Saliani |
| Our Sister Churches | Pat Simmons | Bonnie McGrann |
| All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers | Ernie Getzelman | Lindsey McGrann |
| The United States of America | Jane Simmons | Juan Andra |
| President Donald Trump | Andrew Brooks | Donald Duval |
| Governor Andrew Cuomo | Ike Edwards | Kevin Edwards |
| U.S. Military Personnel | Alison Ruddick | Patrick Tansey |
| All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers | Peter Sachs | Jenna Wallace |
| Alfred Rodemann | James Stegemann | Jordan Schildt |
| Louise Blydenburgh | Marion Werth | Lauren Schneeberg |
| Dianne Ferremi | Maxine Seyboth | Charles Tichy |
| Richard Meltsner | Lorraine Keller | Anthony Lananna |
| | Larry Dimiceli | Derich Suckow |
| | Denise Chapman | Lenny Kiesling |
| | Doris Peters-Ferrara | Alyssa Hayes |
| | Aline Duval | The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack |
| | Larry Harris | The Rev. Jimmy & Yasuyo Coffey |
| | Mary Catherine Sinkis | Ann Inoue |
| | Anita Grube | |
| | John Kelly | |

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 – *Hear Us, Father, When We Pray*

LSB #773, st. 3

Jesus, advocate on high,
Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
Through Your priestly blood we cry:
Hear our prayers though they may falter;
Place them on Your Father's throne
As Your own.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The Seventh Sunday of Easter:

Ezekiel 36:22-28

1 Peter 4:7-14

John 15:26-16:4