

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The 6th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 17 through February 23

[ARTICLE IV. JUSTIFICATION]

³⁴⁸ Here our opponents will raise the cry that good works are unnecessary if they do not merit eternal life. We have refuted this slander earlier. Of course, good works are necessary. We say that eternal life is promised to the justified, but those who walk according to the flesh can retain neither faith nor righteousness. We are justified for this very purpose, that, being righteous, we might begin to do good works and obey God's law.

³⁴⁹ For this purpose we are reborn and receive the Holy Spirit, that this new life might have new works and new impulses, the fear and love of God, hatred of lust, etc. The faith we speak of has its existence in penitence.

³⁵⁰ It ought to grow and become firmer amid good works as well as temptations and dangers, so that we become ever stronger in the conviction that God cares for us, forgives us, and hears us for Christ's sake. No one learns this without many severe struggles. How often our aroused conscience tempts us to despair when it shows our old or new sins or the uncleanness of our nature! This handwriting⁹ is not erased without a great conflict in which experience testifies how difficult a thing faith is.

³⁵¹ While we are receiving encouragement and comfort in the midst of our terrors, other spiritual impulses increase, such as knowledge and fear of God, love of God, and hope. We are renewed, as Paul says (Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 3:18), "in knowledge," and "beholding the glory of the Lord, we are changed into his likeness"; that is, we acquire the true knowledge of God, enabling us truly to fear him and to trust that he cares for us and hears us.

³⁵² This rebirth is, so to speak, the beginning of eternal life, as Paul says (Rom. 8:10), "If Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness." And again (2 Cor. 5:2, 3), "We long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked."

³⁵³ From these statements the fair-minded reader can judge that we very definitely require good works, since we teach that this faith arises in penitence and ought to grow continually in penitence. Here is Christian and spiritual perfection, if penitence and faith amid penitence grow together. The devout can understand this teaching better than what our opponents teach about contemplation or perfection.

³⁵⁴ Just as justification belongs to faith, so eternal life belongs to it. As Peter says (1 Pet. 1:9), "As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls." Our opponents grant that the justified are children of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).

³⁵⁵ Afterwards works merit other bodily and spiritual rewards because they please God through faith. There will be distinctions in the glory of the saints. ~ Ap. of the Confession, Art. IV:348-355

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 – 1

The Catechism – *The Lord's Prayer - Introduction*

Our Father, who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, February 17 – Job 13:1-12

Monday, February 18 – Job 13:13-28 (*Commemoration of Martin Luther, Doctor & Confessor*)

Tuesday, February 19 – Job 14:1-22

Wednesday, February 20 – Job 15:1-23, 30-35

Thursday, February 21 – Job 16:1-22

Friday, February 22 – Job 17:1-16

Saturday, February 23 – Job 18:1-21 (*Commemoration of Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor & Martyr*)

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, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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
The Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod
The Rev. Matthew Harrison
The Atlantic District
The Rev. Derek Lecakes
Concordia Theological
Seminary, Ft. Wayne
The Rev. Lawrence Rast
Concordia Seminary, St.
Louis
The Rev. Dale Meyer
Concordia College – New
York
The Rev. John Nunes
The Concordia University
System
Lutheran Parochial Schools
Our Sister Churches

All Pastors, Missionaries,
and Church Workers
The United States of
America
President Donald Trump
Governor Andrew Cuomo
U.S. Military Personnel
All Fire, Police, and EMS
workers and volunteers
Thelma Stegemann
Irene Jones
Florence Vollmer
Jim Sclafani
Lorraine Keller
Janet Gottlieb
Frances Flanagan
Richard Duffy
Marge Glass
Rob Arrasate
Nancy Galasso

Edward Karan
Cassie Forrest
Steven Roth
Karen Salamone
Kayla Spero
Derek Hrankowsky
Carol Paulsen
Denise Schultz
Bert Schneider
Larry Harris
Edward Harris
Dave Sirckia
Rosemary Merrill
The Rev. Brian & Kristin
Noack
The Rev. Jim & Yasuyo
Coffey
Alexandria Rappe
Ann Inoue

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 – *What Is the World to Me*

LSB #730, st.4

What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once ore, then I declare:
What is the world to me!

Closing Blessing

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

Looking ahead for The 7th Sunday after the Epiphany:

Genesis 45:3-15

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Luke 6:27-38