

**Daily Devotions for Home and Family**  
*For the Week of The Third Sunday after Pentecost*  
June 9 through June 15

**X. THE ECCLESIASTICAL RITES THAT ARE CALLED ADIAPHORA OR THINGS  
INDIFFERENT**

<sup>15</sup> At the same time this concerns the article of Christian liberty as well, an article which the Holy Spirit through the mouth of the holy apostle so seriously commanded the church to preserve, as we have just heard. As soon as this article is weakened and human commandments are forcibly imposed on the church as necessary and as though their omission were wrong and sinful, the door has been opened to idolatry, and ultimately the commandments of men will be increased and be put as divine worship not only on a par with God's commandments, but even above them. <sup>16</sup> Hence yielding or conforming in external things, where Christian agreement in doctrine has not previously been achieved, will support the idolaters in their idolatry, and on the other hand, it will sadden and scandalize true believers and weaken them in their faith. As he values his soul's welfare and salvation, every Christian is obligated to avoid both, as it is written, "Woe to the world for temptations to sin," and again, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it were better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

<sup>17</sup> We are to be particularly mindful that Christ says, "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32).

<sup>18</sup> The following testimonies drawn from the Smalcald Articles, which were drafted and adopted in 1537, show that this has consistently been the conviction and the confession of the chief teachers of the Augsburg Confession concerning such matters of indifference, and we who are walking in their footsteps intend by the grace of God to abide by this their confession. <sup>19</sup> The Smalcald Articles of 1537 declare on this: "We do not concede to the papists (the papist bishops) that they are the church, for they are not. Nor shall we pay any attention to what they command or forbid in the name of the church, for, thank God, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is, namely, holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd," etc. Just before this the Smalcald Articles declare: "If the bishops were true bishops and were concerned about the church and the Gospel, they might be permitted (for the sake of love and unity, but not of necessity) to ordain and confirm us and our preachers, provided this could be done without pretense, humbug, and un-Christian ostentation. However, they neither are nor wish to be true bishops. They are temporal lords and princes who are unwilling to preach or teach or baptize or administer Communion or discharge any office or work in the church. More than that, they expel, persecute, and condemn those who have been called to do these things. Yet the church must not be deprived of ministers on their account." <sup>20</sup> Under the article on the primacy or lordship of the pope, the Smalcald Articles state: "Just as we cannot adore the devil himself as our lord or God, so we cannot suffer his apostle, the pope or Antichrist, to govern us as our head or lord, for deception, murder, and the eternal destruction of body and soul are characteristic of his papal government."

<sup>21</sup> In the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, which constitutes an appendix to the Smalcald Articles and which all the theologians assembled in Smalcald subscribed with their own hands, we find the following statement: "No one should assume lordship or authority over the church, nor burden the church with traditions, nor let anybody's authority count for more than the Word of God."

<sup>22</sup> Shortly after: "Since this is the situation, all Christians ought to beware of becoming participants in the impious doctrines, blasphemies, and unjust cruelties of the pope. They ought rather abandon and execrate the pope and his adherents as the kingdom of Antichrist. Christ commanded, 'Beware of false prophets' (Matt. 7:15). Paul also commanded that ungodly teachers should be shunned and execrated as accursed, and he wrote in 2 Cor. 6:14, 'Do not be mismatched with unbelievers, for what fellowship has light with darkness?' <sup>23</sup> To dissent from the consensus of so many nations and to be called schismatics is a serious matter. But divine authority commands us all not to be associated with and not to support impiety and unjust cruelty." ~ FC, SD X:15-23

## ***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 – 130**

### **The Catechism – Christian Questions With Their Answers**

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?*

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

### **Daily Readings:**

Sunday, June 9 – John 12:36b-50

Monday, June 10 – John 13:1-20

Tuesday, June 11 – John 13:21-38 (*Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle; suggested add'l reading: Mark 6:7-13*)

Wednesday, June 12 – John 14:1-17 (*Commemoration of The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, AD 325*)

Thursday, June 13 – John 14:18-31

Friday, June 14 – John 15:1-11 (*Commemoration of Elisha*)

Saturday, June 15 – John 15:12-27

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

## Prayers

Let us pray...Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do Your will; through 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; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Lawrence Rast; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; The Rev. Thomas Egger; The Concordia University System; Lutheran Parochial Schools; Our Sister Churches; All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers; The Rev. Eric Stinnett & Family; The Rev. David & Barbara Bush; The United States of America; President Joseph Biden; The U.S. Congress and Senate; The Supreme Court Justices and all judges and magistrates; Governor Kathy Hochul; All State and locally elected officials; U.S. Military Personnel; All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Dan Bruno; Cara Cavanagh; Lucy Decker; John Demonte; Ed Doepp; Michael Emmel; Janet Firmery; Carol Foth; Bob Franco; Scott & Morgan Graham; Peter Hamilton; Arthur Holden; Marilyn Jorg; Joyce Keller; Ben Leary; Dorothy Mistler; Douglas Pabst & Family; Barbara Reichling; Eileen Reiter; Alice Ryan; Peggy Salamone; Victor Santiago; Julia Schildt; Charlene Schneeberg; Bert Schneider; Judy Scott; Judy Smith; Michael Stewart; Pat Suriano; Gertrude Sutorius; Ingrid Vessie

**Armed Forces:** Gregory D'Alessandro; Jose & Emma Camacho; Phillip Rappe; Brian Williams; Michael John Young

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 – *Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You* *LSB #668, st. 3*

Wisley fight, for time is fleeting;  
The hours of grace are fast retreating;  
Short, short is this our earthly way.  
When the Lord the dead will waken  
And sinners all by fear are shaken,  
The saints with joy will greet that day.  
Praise God, our triumph's sure.  
We need not long endure  
Scorn and trial.  
Our Savior King  
His own will bring  
To that great glory which we sing.

### Closing Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
- C** **Amen.**

### Looking ahead for The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:

*Ezekiel 17:22-24*

*2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

*Mark 4:26-34*