

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Third Sunday of Easter
April 14 through April 20

VIII. THE PERSON OF CHRIST

⁶³ We have never understood the term “real exchange”—a communication or exchange that takes place in deed and in truth—to describe any essential, natural exchange or transfusion which would blend the natures in their essence and in their essential properties. Some of our opponents, against their own conscience, have maliciously and wickedly twisted our words and terminology in this direction in order to cast suspicion on the pure doctrine. We have used this term merely in opposition to a “verbal exchange,” the doctrine which these people advance, namely, that it is all only a mode of speech, mere words, titles, and names. They have insisted so strongly on this that they will hear no other exchange. To set forth correctly the majesty of Christ by way of contrast, we have spoken of a “real exchange” in order to indicate thereby that such an exchange has occurred in deed and in truth but without any blending of the natures and of their essential properties.

⁶⁴ We therefore hold and teach with the ancient orthodox church, as it explained this doctrine on the basis of Scripture, that the human nature in Christ has received this majesty according to the manner of the personal union, that is, because the fullness of the deity dwells in Christ (Col. 2:9), not as in other godly human beings or in the angels, but “bodily,” as in its own body. This fullness shines forth with all its majesty, power, glory, and efficacy in the assumed nature, spontaneously and when and where he wills. *In, with, and through* the same he manifests and exercises his divine power, glory, and efficacy, as the soul does in the body and fire in glowing iron, analogies which the entire ancient church used in explaining this doctrine, as we stated above. ⁶⁵ During the time of the humiliation the divine majesty was concealed and restrained, but now, since the form of a slave has been laid aside, it takes place fully, mightily, and publicly before all the saints in heaven and on earth, and in yonder life we shall behold his glory face to face (John 17:24). ⁶⁶ Thus there is and remains in Christ only a single divine omnipotence, power, majesty, and glory, which is the property of the divine nature alone. But it shines forth and manifests itself fully, though always spontaneously, *in, with, and through* the assumed exalted human nature of Christ. Just as in glowing iron there are not two powers of illumination and combustion—the power of illumination and combustion is the property of fire—but since the fire is united with the iron, it demonstrates and manifests its power of illumination and combustion in and through the iron in such a way that on that account and through this union the glowing iron has the power of illumination and combustion without any transformation of the natural properties of either the fire or the iron.

⁶⁷ Hence we do not understand the testimonies of the Scriptures which speak of the majesty to which the human nature of Christ has been exalted either as if this divine majesty, which is the property of the divine nature of the Son of God, is to be ascribed in the person of the Son of Man only according to his divine nature, or as if this majesty is in Christ’s human nature only in such a way that it merely shares the bare titles and the names in words alone, while in deed and in truth the human nature has no share in the divine majesty.

⁶⁸ If that were so, since God is a spiritual and indivisible essence and is therefore everywhere present in all creatures, and since in whomever he is (especially believers and saints), he dwells, and since he there has his majesty with and about him at all times, it could be said with equal truth that in all creatures in whom God is, but especially in believers in whom God dwells, there likewise the fullness of deity dwells bodily, there likewise are hid all treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and to them all authority in heaven and on earth is given, for the Spirit, who has all power, has been given to them. ~ FC, SD VIII:63-68

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 – 4

The Catechism – Daily Prayers

Returning Thanks

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. *Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9-11* We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, April 14 – Luke 6:39-49

Monday, April 15 – Luke 7:1-17

Tuesday, April 16 – Luke 7:18-35

Wednesday, April 17 – Luke 7:36-50

Thursday, April 18 – Luke 8:1-21

Friday, April 19 – Luke 8:22-39

Saturday, April 20 – Luke 8:40-56 (*Commemoration of Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor*)

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...O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; 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; Noel Brewer; Dan Bruno; Michael Carrano; Helene Conroy; Lucy Decker; Ed Doepp; Michael Emmel; Carol Fagan; Janet Firmery; Carol Foth; Bob Franco; Scott & Morgan Graham; Peter Hamilton; Marilyn Jorg; Joyce Keller; Ben Leary; Dorothy Mistler; Olga Pabst; Barbara Reichling; Alice Ryan; Peggy Salamone; Victor Santiago; Charlene Schneeberg; Bert Schneider; Judy Scott; Judy Smith; Michael Stewart; Pat Suriano; Gertrude Sutorius; Ingrid Vessie

Armed Forces: Gregory D'Alessandro; Emma Levine; 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 – *With High Delight Let Us Unite*

LSB #483, st. 3

Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love
Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

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 of Easter:

Acts 4:1-12

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18