

Daily Devotions for Home and Family

For Holy Week

April 13 through April 19

FAITH

Chapter 15. The Preceding Argument is in No Wise Inconsistent with the Saying of Our Lord: A Good Tree Cannot Bring Forth Evil Fruit.

But when we say that evil springs out of good, let it not be thought that this contradicts our Lord's saying: A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit. For, as He who is the Truth says, you cannot gather grapes of thorns, because grapes do not grow on thorns. But we see that on good soil both vines and thorns may be grown. And in the same way, just as an evil tree cannot bring forth good fruit, so an evil will cannot produce good works. But from the nature of man, which is good, may spring either a good or an evil will. And certainly there was at first no source from which an evil will could spring, except the nature of angel or of man, which was good. And our Lord Himself clearly shows this in the very same place where He speaks about the tree and its fruit. For He says: Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt, — clearly enough warning us that evil fruits do not grow on a good tree, nor good fruits on an evil tree; but that nevertheless the ground itself, by which He meant those whom He was then addressing, might grow either kind of trees.

Chapter 16. It is Not Essential to Man's Happiness that He Should Know the Causes of Physical Convulsions; But It Is, that He Should Know the Causes of Good and Evil.

Now, in view of these considerations, when we are pleased with that line of Maro, Happy the man who has attained to the knowledge of the causes of things, we should not suppose that it is necessary to happiness to know the causes of the great physical convulsions, causes which lie hidden in the most secret recesses of nature's kingdom, whence comes the earthquake whose force makes the deep seas to swell and burst their barriers, and again to return upon themselves and settle down. But we ought to know the causes of good and evil as far as man may in this life know them, in order to avoid the mistakes and troubles of which this life is so full. For our aim must always be to reach that state of happiness in which no trouble shall distress us, and no error mislead us. If we must know the causes of physical convulsions, there are none which it concerns us more to know than those which affect our own health. But seeing that, in our ignorance of these, we are fain to resort to physicians, it would seem that we might bear with considerable patience our ignorance of the secrets that lie hidden in the earth and heavens. ~ *Enchiridion*, Chapters 15 & 16

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 – 118:19-29

The Catechism – Christian Questions With Their Answers

7. *Who is Christ?*

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. *How many Gods are there?*

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, April 13 – Hebrews 1:1-14 (*Palm Sunday; suggested add'l reading: Matthew 21:1-9*)

Monday, April 14 – Hebrews 2:1-18

Tuesday, April 15 – Hebrews 3:1-19

Wednesday, April 16 – Hebrews 4:1-16

Thursday, April 17 – Hebrews 5:1-14 (*Holy Thursday; suggested add'l reading: John 13:1-15*)

Friday, April 18 – Hebrews 6:1-20 (*Good Friday; suggested add'l reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12*)

Saturday, April 19 – Hebrews 7:1-22 (*Holy Saturday; suggested add'l reading: John 20:1-18*)

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 everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; 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; The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; The Rev. Matthew Harrison; The Atlantic District; The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; The Rev. Jon Bruss; 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. Dr. Tom Park; The United States of America; President Donald Trump; 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; Gail Acker; Emily Arrasate; Rob Arrasate; Hubert Bauer; Jackie Blydenburgh; Claire Bornholdt; Lucy Decker; Ed Doepp; Charlie Erb; Holly Erb; Carol Foth; Richard Frenz; Barbara Helwig; Olivia Hintz; Arthur Holden; Shannon Hole; Kelly Housto; Marilyn Jorg; Beth Keating; Bill Kopf; Dorothy Mistler; Robert Mohl; Joe Pinz; Evan Powers; Alice Ryan; Peggy Salamone; Lisa Schantz; Charlene Schneeberg; Judy Scott; Carol Shaw; Judy Smith; Gertrude Tutorius; Ingrid Vessie; Patrice Vitalino; Jack Whitehouse; Edward Zerbe

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 – *No Tramp of Soldier's Marching*

LSB #444, st. 4

Now He who bore for morals' sake
The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to take,
The King of glory reigns.
Hosana to the Savior's name
Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim
"Behold, behold your King!"

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.

✠ Look Ahead for Next Week:

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; John 13:1-15, 34-35

Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; John 18:1-19:42

Easter Vigil: John 20:1-18

Easter Sunrise: Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday: Job 19:23-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Mark 16:1-8