

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7 through July 13

XI. ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DIVINE ELECTION

¹³ Hence if we wish to think or speak correctly and profitably about eternal election or about the predestination and ordering of the children of God to eternal life, we should accustom ourselves not to speculate concerning the absolute, secret, hidden, and inscrutable foreknowledge of God. On the contrary, we should consider the counsel, purpose, and ordinance of God in Christ Jesus, who is the genuine and true “book of life” as it is revealed to us through the Word.

¹⁴ This means that we must always take as one unit the entire doctrine of God’s purpose, counsel, will, and ordinance concerning our redemption, call, justification, and salvation, as Paul treats and explains this article (Rom. 8:28ff.; Eph. 1:4ff.) and as Christ likewise does in the parable (Matt. 22:2–14), namely, that in his purpose and counsel God had ordained the following:

¹⁵ **1.** That through Christ the human race has truly been redeemed and reconciled with God and that by his innocent obedience, suffering, and death Christ has earned for us “the righteousness which avails before God” and eternal life.

¹⁶ **2.** That this merit and these benefits of Christ are to be offered, given, and distributed to us through his Word and sacraments.

¹⁷ **3.** That he would be effective and active in us by his Holy Spirit through the Word when it is preached, heard, and meditated on, would convert hearts to true repentance, and would enlighten them in the true faith.

¹⁸ **4.** That he would justify and graciously accept into the adoption of children and into the inheritance of eternal life all who in sincere repentance and true faith accept Christ.

¹⁹ **5.** That he also would sanctify in love all who are thus justified, as St. Paul says (Eph. 1:4).

²⁰ **6.** That he also would protect them in their great weakness against the devil, the world, and the flesh, guide and lead them in his ways, raise them up again when they stumble, and comfort and preserve them in tribulation and temptation.

²¹ **7.** That he would also strengthen and increase in them the good work which he has begun, and preserve them unto the end, if they cling to God’s Word, pray diligently, persevere in the grace of God, and use faithfully the gifts they have received.

²² **8.** That, finally, he would eternally save and glorify in eternal life those whom he has elected, called, and justified.

²³ In this his eternal counsel, purpose, and ordinance God has not only prepared salvation in general, but he has also graciously considered and elected to salvation each and every individual among the elect who are to be saved through Christ, and also ordained that in the manner just recounted he wills by his grace, gifts, and effective working to bring them to salvation and to help, further, strengthen, and preserve them to this end.

²⁴ According to the Scriptures all this is included in the teaching of the eternal election of God to adoption and to eternal salvation. It should be understood as included therein and never be excluded or omitted when we speak of the purpose, foreknowledge, election, and ordinance of God to eternal salvation. When we follow the Scriptures and organize our thinking about this article in this light, we can by the grace of God easily orient ourselves in it. ~ FC, SD XI:13-24

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 – 123

The Catechism – *The Ten Commandments: The Third Commandment*

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, July 7 – Acts 13:13-41

Monday, July 8 – Acts 13:42-52

Tuesday, July 9 – Acts 14:1-18

Wednesday, July 10 – Acts 14:19—15:5

Thursday, July 11 – Acts 15:6-21

Friday, July 12 – Galatians 1:1-24

Saturday, July 13 – Galatians 2:1-21

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, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, 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. Dr. Tom Park; 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; Eugene Carlson; Cara Cavanagh; Lucy Decker; John Demonte; Ed Doepp; Michael Emmel; Janet Firmery; Carol Foth; Bob Franco; Scott & Morgan Graham; Patricia Greer; Peter Hamilton; Arthur Holden; Marilyn Jorg; Joyce Keller; Ben Leary; Donna Miller; Dorothy Mistler; Douglas Pabst; Joann Platt; Barbara Reichling; Eileen Reiter; Alice Ryan; Ken Salamone; Peggy Salamone; Victor Santiago; Julia Schildt; Charlene Schneeberg; Bert Schneider; Judy Scott; Judy Smith; Stephanie Steenburg; 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 – *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

LSB #853, st. 4

In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon—
All You endeavored done.

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 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:

Amos 7:7-15

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29