

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14 through July 20

XI. ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DIVINE ELECTION

²⁵ An answer to the following question is necessary for the further exposition and the salutary use of the teaching of God’s foreknowledge to salvation: Since only the elect “whose names are written in the book of life” will be saved, how can and should one know, and wherefrom and whereby can and should one discover, who the elect are and who can and should comfort themselves with this teaching?

²⁶ We should not pass judgment on the basis of our reason, or on the basis of the law, or on the basis of some outward appearance. Neither should we permit ourselves to try to explore the secret and hidden abyss of divine foreknowledge. Instead we must heed the revealed will of God. For he has revealed and “made known to us the mystery of his will” and has brought it forth through Christ so that it should be preached (Eph. 1:9, 10; 2 Tim. 1:9–11).

²⁷ This is revealed to us, however, as Paul says, “Those whom God has foreknown, elected, and decreed, he has also called” (Rom. 8:29, 30). Now, God does not call without means but through the Word, as indeed he has commanded the preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sin. St. Paul testified to the same effect when he wrote, “We are ambassadors in Christ’s stead, and God is admonishing you through us, ‘Be reconciled to God’ ” (2 Cor. 5:20). And the guests whom the king invites to his son’s wedding he calls through the messengers whom he sent out, some at first, some at the second, at the third, at the sixth, at the ninth, and even at the eleventh hour (Matt. 20:1–16; 22:2–14).

²⁸ Hence if we want to consider our eternal election to salvation profitably, we must by all means cling rigidly and firmly to the fact that as the proclamation of repentance extends over all men (Luke 24:47), so also does the promise of the Gospel. Therefore Christ has commanded to preach “repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name among all nations.” For God “loved the world” and gave to it his only begotten Son (John 3:16). Christ has taken away the sin of the world (John 1:29); he has given his flesh “for the life of the world” (John 6:51); his blood is “the propitiation for the whole world’s” sin (1 John 1:7; 2:2). Christ declares, “Come unto me, all who are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). “God has included all men under disobedience so that he might have mercy on all” (Rom. 11:32). “The Lord is not wishing that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). “He is simultaneously one Lord of all, rich toward all who call upon him” (Rom. 10:12). Righteousness “comes through faith in Christ to all and on all who believe” (Rom. 3:22). “This is the will of the Father, that all who believe on Christ should have eternal life” (John 6:40). It is Christ’s command that all in common to whom repentance is preached should also have this promise of the Gospel proclaimed to them (Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15).

²⁹ And we should not regard this call of God which takes place through the preaching of the Word as a deception, but should know certainly that God reveals his will in this way, and that in those whom he thus calls he will be efficaciously active through the Word so that they may be illuminated, converted, and saved. For the Word through which we are called is a ministry of the Spirit—“which gives the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:8) and a “power of God” to save (Rom. 1:16). And because the Holy Spirit wills to be efficacious through the Word, to strengthen us, and to give us power and ability, it is God’s will that we should accept the Word, believe and obey it. ~ FC, SD XI:25-29

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 – 85:8-13

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

Honor your father and mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them..

Daily Readings:

Sunday, July 14 – Galatians 3:1-22

Monday, July 15 – Galatians 3:23—4:11

Tuesday, July 16 – Galatians 4:12-31 (*Commemoration of Ruth*)

Wednesday, July 17 – Galatians 5:1-26

Thursday, July 18 – Galatians 6:1-18

Friday, July 19 – Acts 15:22-41

Saturday, July 20 – Acts 16:1-22 (*Commemoration of Elijah*)

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 Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; 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. 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; Cynthia Omasta; 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 – *Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee* *LSB #573, st. 3*

Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-44