



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



A CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 18—JULY 24, 2010

COMMENTARY FOR THE WEEK

Cathy and I just recently got back from our trip to Rome and central Italy. For us it was a fulfillment of a childhood dream to see many of the places mentioned in our study of Latin and in the pages of the New Testament. In our desire to visit Rome we are similar to St. Paul who wrote the Epistle to the Romans. Paul, who went about starting churches in many different cities of the Roman empire, eventually wanted to get to Rome itself - the capital of the Roman empire and the center of the Roman world. His goal was to preach the Gospel to the Christians already present there and strengthen them in their faith. He wrote, "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Romans 1:11-12). St. Paul eventually did indeed arrive in Rome, but as a prisoner for the Gospel. As he awaited his trial he preached to the guards in the prison and wrote other letters to Christian churches. It is uncertain whether Paul was released after his trial or executed immediately for his faith. Some scholars suggest that he was indeed

released and he traveled to the most westward reaches of the empire in Spain. Eventually he was martyred for his faith by beheading in Rome most likely under the Emperor Nero. Down through the centuries Rome has played an important role in the history of the church. It is the location of many historic Christian churches. Pilgrims over the years have come to visit these churches and other religious sights. Luther himself journeyed to Rome before the Reformation. Cathy and I were a part of the throngs of pilgrims that still come today. As we visited the sights and churches of Rome we recalled the words of St. Paul to the first century Roman Christians, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentiles. For in the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17). The main memory we have of Rome will always be Paul's Gospel message. Like Paul we should never be ashamed of that message for it is our comfort, hope, and strength.

A SAMPLE FAMILY DEVOTION:

• Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

• Verse of the Week

Try to memorize by the end of the week.

• Daily Bible Story

Read together and talk about the story. Which character are you most like? Where is the Gospel?

• Apostles' Creed

• Prayers

Pray together the collect, and have a family member pray the daily thematic prayer and the prayers of the Church for the Week

MEMORIZING THE CATECHISM THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

What is the Sixth Commandment?
You shall not commit adultery.

Pre+

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

2nd+



Thou shalt
not commit
adultery
Exodus 20:14

Reading the Psalms:

Perfect for personal morning devotions.

SUNDAY 54, 56
55

MONDAY 59
57, 58

TUESDAY 61, 63
62

WEDNESDAY 65
63, 64

THURSDAY 66
67, 70

FRIDAY 68
69

SATURDAY 71
72

VERSE OF THE WEEK

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27

Hymn of the Week:

“One Thing’s Needful”, #536

A musician in the family can play the tune while the family sings together. Otherwise, the text is good devotional material.

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-33

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

Colossians 2:6-15

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Luke 11:1-13

The Lord’s Prayer

BIBLE STORIES FOR THE FAMILY AND CONGREGATION: TO BE READ DURING YOUR DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

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|-----------|---|
| Monday | Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35-43) |
| Tuesday | Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’s House (Luke 19:1-10) |
| Wednesday | The Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:11-28) |
| Thursday | The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers (Luke 20:1-19) |
| Friday | Render to Caesar the Things that Are Caesar’s (Luke 20:20-26) |
| Saturday | <i>Look ahead to Sunday’s Readings</i> |

DAILY PRAYER READINGS: PERFECT FOR PERSONAL EVENING DEVOTIONS

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|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday | OT: 1 Samuel 1:21—2:17 | NT: Galatians 6:1-18 |
| Monday | 1 Samuel 2:18-36 | Acts 15:22-41 |
| Tuesday | 1 Samuel 3:1-21 | Acts 16:1-22 |
| Wednesday | 1 Samuel 4:1-22 | Acts 16:23-40 |
| Thursday | 1 Samuel 5:1—6:3, 10-16 | Acts 18:1-11,23-28 |
| Friday | 1 Samuel 6:19:—7:17 | Acts 19:1-22 |
| Saturday | 1 Samuel 8:1-22 | Acts 21:15-36 |
| Sunday | 1 Samuel 9:1-27 | Acts 21:37—22:16 |

PRAYERS

Collect for the Week:

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer:

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|------------------|---|
| Sunday | for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of the faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments. |
| Monday | for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace. |
| Tuesday | for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin. |
| Wednesday | for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods. |
| Thursday | for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood. |
| Friday | for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying. |
| Saturday | for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts. |

In Our Prayers @ Mt. Calvary

Ruth Faubion at Regent Care-Oakwell Farms; **Richard Seale** at the death of his sister, Vicki Seale, last Sunday; **Carolyn Bodkin** at the death of her son, Paul Morgan, last Sunday; **Justin Lopez** at the death of his brother, Dillon Lopez; **Carole Willis** at home; **Bryce Rushing** at home following surgery; **our newly elected officers** of our Synod; **our youth and sponsors** at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans; **Lindsay Short and Kyle Wickboldt** on their marriage yesterday.