



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



A CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

THE HOLY TRINITY

JUNE 7-JUNE 13, 2009

COMMENTARY FOR THE WEEK

Nicodemus, a devout Pharisee and ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus one night to talk to him. In their conversation Jesus explained spiritual rebirth and how we must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus responded, "How can these things be?" Nicodemus believed but had questions and reservations that he needed answered and resolved before he could fully believe in Jesus as the Messiah. Today many of us are like Nicodemus. As the church once more celebrates Trinity Sunday and the doctrine of the Triune God, as we witness today Holy Communion in which we receive Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, as we confess other doctrines of the faith, we too often ask, "How can these things be?" Our questions may even lead to doubt and disbelief. Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions that night. Later, Nicodemus assisted at Jesus' burial. There are ancient traditions that Nicodemus became a believer, was baptized, and sacrificed his

position and wealth for his faith. Jesus also answers our questions in His word. As we read, study, and hear it, the Holy Spirit can work saving faith in our hearts. As human beings we will always have questions and uncertainties but there is much evidence in our world that points us to the reality of God, from the existence of the world itself to our inner yearning to know God. As Christians we choose to accent our faith and continually turn to the Word and Sacraments for guidance and assurance. In doing that we discover how these wonderful promises of God can indeed be true.



Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

MEMORIZING THE CATECHISM: TABLE OF DUTIES TO EVERYONE

The commandments...are summed up in this one rule: "love your neighbor as yourself." <i>Romans 13:9</i>	1st+
I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. <i>1 Timothy 2:1</i>	2nd +

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

Reading the Psalms:

Perfect for personal morning devotions.

SUNDAY	89 90
MONDAY	91 93
TUESDAY	92 94
WEDNESDAY	95, 96 97
THURSDAY	98, 100 99
FRIDAY	101 102
SATURDAY	103 104

VERSE OF THE WEEK

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4

Hymn of the Week:

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”, #250

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:

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24

And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Mark 4:26-34

The Parables of the Seed Growing and of the Mustard Seed

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

Monday	The Death of Lazarus (John 11:1-16)
Tuesday	Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:17-37)
Wednesday	Lazarus Is Raised from the Dead (John 11:38-44)
Thursday	The Plot to Kill Jesus (John 11:45-57)
Friday	Walk in the Light (John 12:42-50)
Saturday	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

**DAILY PRAYER READINGS:
PERFECT FOR PERSONAL EVENING DEVOTIONS**

Sunday	OT: Numbers 35:9-30	NT: Luke 24:28-53
Monday	Proverbs 5:1-23	John 12:20-36a
Tuesday	Proverbs 8:1-21	John 12:36b-50
Wednesday	Proverbs 8:22-36	John 13:1-20
Thursday	Proverbs 9:1-18	John 13:21-38
Friday	Proverbs 10:1-23	John 14:1-17
Saturday	Proverbs 13:1-25	John 14:1-17
Sunday	Proverbs 14:1-27	John 15:1-11

PRAYERS

Collect for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship in the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer:

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

Richard Kaddatz at Colony Gardens Nursing Home; **Brooke Meissner** at home; **Phyllis Gilg** at TriSun Nursing Home; **Nell Hohle** who had knee replacement last Thursday; **Evelyn Lee** recovering from foot surgery; **Heidi Farmer** recovering from dental surgery.