

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Congregation at Prayer

Sunday after Ascension  
May 17, 2026 – May 23, 2026

### Daily Prayer

*Making the sign of the cross say:*

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**R: Amen**

Psalm of the Day

Old Testament and New Testament Readings

Memory Verse

Catechism

Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer

L: Let us bless the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God**

**Memory Verse:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:8-9.**

**Catechism:** Confession

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

*Where is this written?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

*What do you believe according to these words?*

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord deals with us Himself.

### Bible Readings for the Week:

*Sunday* – Numbers 14:1-25, Luke 18:18-34, Psalm 81:10-16

*Monday* – Numbers 14:26-45, Luke 18:35-19:10, Psalm 146:5-9

*Tuesday* – Numbers 16:1-22, Luke 19:11-28, Psalm 111

*Wednesday* – Numbers 16:23-40, Luke 19:29-48, Psalm 118:19-25

*Thursday* – Numbers 16:41-17:13, Luke 20:1-18, Psalm 80:14-19

*Friday* – Numbers 20:1-21, Luke 20:19-44, Psalm 78:9-16

*Saturday* – Numbers 20:22-21:9, Luke 20:45-21:19, Psalm 116:1-4, 16-19

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