

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 92

What are the characteristics of God's love? (verse 2)

The Lord's love is steadfast (never-ending) and faithful.

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Jeremiah 8:4–12

What was the main sin that the prophets and priests committed?

The prophets and priests condoned the sinful behavior without punishment by saying the "peace", when there was no peace.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Luke 19:41–48

Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

Jesus wept for the unbelievers. He looked ahead to His suffering for them on Calvary, the payment of His Body and Blood for them, and He loved them. He died for them because He loved them. He suffered hell in His crucifixion for them because He loved them. His tears show the nature (character) of God: that He earnestly wants His people to come to Him. But there will come a day when all that will be over, and those who refused Him will be condemned. He wept because they did not know that Christ is their Savior, they rejected Him.

What did Jesus do in the temple?

Jesus goes in to the temple and He drives out the money-changers; He drives out the false worship. He replaces it with Himself as He taught daily in the temple, and the people were hanging on His words. Christ comes to you, and you receive His Body and Blood from the altar. The same Body and Blood of Him who was crucified outside the city gates, and who rose again from the dead in the same Flesh, to rebuild the Temple of His Body.

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit's gifts? (verse 7)

The manifestation (purpose) of the Spirit is for the common good, they are not to be used selfishly.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 157 (page 150)

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

Jeremiah 7:1–11

What does "Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'" mean? (verse 4)

People think that any religion, however nebulous or vague it might be, is good enough. To be thinking holy thoughts, to be having a decent outward life, to be behaving as Christians, whatever that is, is not enough; it's never enough.

What does it mean that the house of God have been turned into a "den of robbers"? (verse 11)

The robbers used the temple for refuge (a safe place to stay before they went out to steal again). They thought they could bypass punishment for their sins against God and other people.

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

Romans 9:30–10:4

Why did Israel pursue a law that would lead to righteousness?

They did not have faith. "Pursuit of the Law itself is not wrong. But a right standing with God cannot be attained by works of the Law, but only by grace through faith. Faith lays hold of Christ, who was put to death for our sins and raised for our justification." (Study Bible Notes)

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 84 (pages 100–101)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Third Article of the Creed with Explanation and Trinity X?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.