

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 10, 2017 through September 17, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Sanctity of Life and the Sanctity of the One Flesh Union—In the Fifth Commandment, God protects His gift of life and the sanctity of human life. It is not a coincidence that the protection of the gift of life under the Fifth Commandment stands next to the protection of the gift of marriage in the Sixth Commandment. It is God's wonderful ordering of the creation that human life is to be brought into this world and nurtured through the institution of marriage between one man and one woman for life. We are made in the image of the Triune God of love. This is what makes life sacred and why it is to be protected. The Fifth Commandment forbids every form of murder: abortion, euthanasia, and even the hatred of the heart. We are not to "hurt our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need." In the **Sixth Commandment** God teaches us that this gift of life is brought into this world through the sanctity of the one flesh union in marriage. The sexual union is both a physical and a spiritual union. When a husband and wife come together in the physical intimacy of sexual intercourse, they are not just "having sex"; each is actually giving his or her very self to the other as an act of self-less love for the comfort and strengthening of the other. This means that love in marriage moves out of the self to give of itself to the beloved. The question of the lover is not "what am I going to get out of this?" but "what am I going to give to the one I love?" In marriage, there is no greater gift than to give one's self to his spouse. This bond is so profound, intimate, and sacred that it is called "one flesh." The Church should not only condemn the self-centered sins of fornication and adultery against the Sixth Commandment, but should also hold up the wonderful gift of human sexuality and how God intends it for the giving and receiving of marital love. This is why the Catechism itself speaks in positive language about the Sixth Commandment: "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."

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: The Lord Jesus Has Compassion on Us in Our Infirmities.

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Mark 10:7b, 8, 9

"A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
⁸ and the two shall become one flesh;
 so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.
⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

Readings for the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37	Luke 10:23-37
Monday	The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1-17	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Tuesday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	1 Timothy 1:1-20
Wednesday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	1 Timothy 2:1-15
Thursday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	1 Timothy 3:1-16
Friday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	1 Timothy 4:1-16
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	1 Timothy 5:1-25
Sunday	Sunday's readings	Luke 17:11-19

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— the Fifth and Sixth Commandments

<p><i>What is the Fifth Commandment?</i> You shall not murder.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.</p>	First Grade +
<p><i>What is the Sixth Commandment?</i> You shall not commit adultery.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> 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.</p>	Second Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and Collect for the Week, and

Prayers on the Fifth Commandment:

Heavenly Father forgive us our sins against the fifth commandment. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Fifth Commandment You teach us that the gift of life is sacred and holy, and that it is to be protected from every form of murder. By the gift of Your only-begotten Son You saved us from death and restored life with You. We give thanks to You for this gift and for our new life in Christ. Forgive us for every form of murder—for hatred, resentment, and refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us. Grant us Your grace and mercy that we might let go of all grudges, sincerely forgive our enemies, and truly help and support our neighbor in every physical need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Sixth Commandment:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of marriage, where you join together a man and a woman in love for each other and, when it is Your will, to become a father and a mother. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we lead a pure and decent life in what we say and do, and grow to be faithful husbands and wives who love and honor our spouses; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Sixth Commandment You teach us that marriage is Your gift to us, where a man and a woman are brought together in love to become one flesh and, when it is Your will, for receiving the gift of children. Thank You for this wonderful gift to us. Forgive us for every sin against marriage and the Sixth Commandment. Uphold all husbands and wives in their marriages. Give them faithfulness to Your Word. Teach them to live according to Your will. Strengthen them to live in Your love for each other; and enable them to live sexually pure and decent lives in everything that they say and do as husbands and wives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

*The victims of the hurricanes and all relief efforts, especially those of our LCMS Disaster Response
 For the sick and recovering: Ann Leque, in Lake Country Care Center; Lisa Eldridge, receiving treatment for cancer;
 Elaine Boetcher and Greg Efferson (friend of Jim Frerking) in hospice care.*

Collect for the week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain what You have promised, make us love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (stanzas 1-3)

Looking forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity **September 17, 2017**

Hymns: 913, 849, 421, 635, 528, 846

Proverbs 4:10-23; Galatians 5:16-24; Luke 17:11-19

The ten lepers cried out from a distance, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” (Luke 17:11–19). Their condition cut them off from God and others. So also do the works of the flesh cut us off from God and others. “Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:16–24). Thus we cry out with the lepers, “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy,” eagerly seeking His good gifts. Jesus said to the lepers, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. So too, we walk by faith and not by sight, being confident of Jesus’ help before we see any evidence of it, trusting that Jesus’ cleansing words of forgiveness will restore us to wholeness in the resurrection. Let us be as the one leper who returned to the true High Priest to give Him thanks and glory. For Jesus bore our infirmities in His sacrifice at Calvary. His words are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh (Prov 4:10–23).— Lutheran Service Book Project