

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 6 through September 13, 2020*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 89:38-52 —Prayer for the Preservation of the Church—“How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?” There have been times throughout the history of the Old Testament Church to the present day in which it appeared as if the Lord had not only abandoned His Church but cast her off. The Babylonian captivity was such time. The Temple was destroyed. Prominent officials were carried away captive. The Kingdom of Judah and the city of Jerusalem were left in ruins. As was the case in the Old Testament, sometimes the New Testament Church has brought such destruction upon herself by her sins and infidelity. Faith understands that it is the Lord who has seemingly cast us off and allowed the enemies of the church to oppress her. Appealing to the Lord’s promise, the psalmist asks, “How long?” Ultimately the oppression of His people is not for their destruction but for their salvation. The psalmist prays for the Church with the sobriety of a broken and contrite heart: “Remember how short my time is; for what futility have You created the children of men? What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?” Faith knows the answers to these questions and can only appeal to the Lord’s promise of salvation to the unworthy and undeserving, “Lord, where are Your former loving kindnesses, which You swore to David in Your truth? Remember, Lord, the reproach of Your servants...Blessed be the Lord forevermore! Amen and Amen.”

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.

Theme: He Who Had Mercy Is the Neighbor to the Downtrodden!

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 89:38-52 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Most merciful God and Father, though we have so often gone astray from the faith, do not utterly forsake us, but call us back to Your Word and save us from the hand of those who would oppress and destroy the Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147
Evening	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37	
Monday	Labor Day—No School— 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15	
Tuesday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	Hebrews 6:13-20
Wednesday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	Hebrews 7:1-10
Thursday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	Hebrews 7:11-19
Friday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	Hebrews 7:20-28
Saturday	The Security of Wisdom—Proverbs 4:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24

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

<i>What is the Fifth Commandment?</i> You shall not murder.	Preschool +
<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.	First Grade +
<i>What is the Sixth Commandment?</i> You shall not commit adultery.	Preschool +
<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.	Second Grade +

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

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

Baptismal Birthdays: Judy Schaefer (9/6), Scott Perry (9/10), Erin Hoffmann (9/11).

Wedding Anniversaries: Mark & Melody Ruhbusch (9/6), Dan & Shawneen Schmitt (9/6).

The gift of work and vocation

The sick and recovering:

Hilde Fischer, Dan Schmitt, Charlie Dhein, Frank Kopling, Lenny Schrauth, Karl Stemke, Jeremy LaFore, David Berger, Roger Laubenstein, Harlan Petersen, Allison Witte

Collect for 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)

LSB 740

Looking forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 13, 2020

Hymns: 790, 797, 595, 793, 632, 740

Proverbs 4:10-23: The path of life is to abide in the life-giving Word of God, the instruction of the Holy Scriptures.

Galatians 5:16-24: When the Bible talks about "walking" it is talking about faith in Christ and the life of faith. To "walk in the Spirit" is to continue in the life of repentant faith in Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. Walking in the Spirit means that we are led by the Holy Spirit through the divine Word to flee continually from self to Christ. To "walk in the flesh" is to continue to indulge the appetites of the Old Adam, without contrition and repentance. Faith and unbelief are in constant warfare. It is why Paul says, "the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." From the flesh flows all manner of evil. From a life lived by faith in the Gospel, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Luke 17:11-19: Universal grace is the doctrine that God loves the entire world in Christ and not just a selected few. In the account of the cleansing of the Ten Lepers we see Jesus cleansing not just the one Samaritan who returned to Him in faith and thanksgiving, but all ten. In the same way we learn that Christ died for all sinners, even though many will reject His gift in impenitence and unbelief. The Old Testament Law included provisions for lepers to be brought back into the community of faith if they were cleansed of their disease. When Jesus told the cleansed lepers to show themselves to the priests as a testimony to them in accordance with the Law, He wanted to demonstrate that the One who is the source of cleansing had come, and that He had not come to set aside the Law, but to fulfill it. Ironically, it was the Samaritan that recognized the true nature of Jesus' miracle. Jesus hadn't merely healed him of a physical disease; Jesus was the source of all salvation as the One who fulfilled the Law for all people. Thanksgiving is the fruit of repentant faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.