

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 19 through September 26, 2021

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 125: A Prayer of Trust in the Lord's Strength for His People—Psalm 125 continues the psalms of Ascents. Faith in Christ gives us freedom from sin and the judgment of the Law. Faith in Christ is also our strength against every foe because the Lord makes unequivocal promises to those who believe. "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." The Lord promises protection for His people and to do us good, so that no harm will destroy our life with Him who gave His life for us. His peace abides with His faithful congregation.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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: Jesus Restores Our Communion with God!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Matthew 6:25

**"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink;
nor about your body, what you will put on.**

Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Psalm 125 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O LORD, grant us firm faith in You. Establish us in the freedom of Your salvation so that we fear no power on earth but abide in the protection of Your love; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66
Evening	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Raising of the Widow of Nain's Son—Luke 7:11-17	
Monday	The Prophet Nathan Confronts David with His Sin—2 Sam. 11:26-12:15	Titus 3:1-15
Tuesday	David's Son Dies and Solomon Is Born—2 Samuel 12:16-25 St. Matthew, Apostle—Matthew 9:9-13	James 1:1-11
Wednesday	Absalom Dishonors His Father by Treason—2 Samuel 15:1-15	James 1:12-27
Thursday	Absalom's Defeat and Death—2 Samuel 18:1, 5-18, 31—19:6	James 2:1-13
Friday	David's Sacrifice—1 Chronicles 21:1—22:1	James 2:14-26
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Proverbs 25:6-14	Ephesians 4:1-6

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

<i>What is the Ninth Commandment?</i> You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.	Second Grade +
<i>What is the Tenth Commandment?</i> You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.	Second Grade +

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

Prayers on the Ninth Commandment: Gracious Lord, forgive us for coveting the things You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, You teach us in the Ninth Commandment that we should not make an idol out of the things that belong to others, but that we should help and be of service to our neighbor in keeping what belongs to him. You have called us in love to look out for and protect all the temporal gifts that belong to others. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of covetous desire and envy, for insisting upon having things that you have not given us, for being preoccupied with finding ways to get more and more for ourselves, and for making plans to obtain things from others by claiming that we have a right to them and they do not. Guard the thoughts and desires of our hearts. Rescue us from every form of greed and selfishness. Teach us to love our neighbor by being of service to him in protecting what You have given him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Tenth Commandment: *Gracious Lord forgive us for coveting a spouse, worker, or relationship with someone that You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Most merciful God and Father, in the Tenth Commandment You teach us that our God-given relationships with others are sacred and that they are to be honored and protected. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for coveting relationships with others that You have not given us, for every form of lust and self-centered desire, for wanting another person's spouse, for making a god out of people, for loving others more than we love You, and for trying to obtain the loyalty and affection of others that rightly belongs to our neighbor. Help us to be content with the relationships that You have given us. Grant us the gift of your grace and mercy in Jesus, so that in every way we encourage, support, and help our neighbors to maintain their God-given relationships in marriage, family, and the workplace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

The Office of the Ministry: *The Lord's guidance and blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and headmaster.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Andrew Gehlbach (9/20), Katie Banasik, Laura Laubenstein (9/21), Ken Dumke, Randy Kirk, Sam Bender, Angela Volquardsen, Aubrey Hoffmann (9/22), Lucas Dubnicka, Ashley LaSage, Ethan Krueger (9/24), Tim Frerking, Richard Gallagher, Sherry Prowatzke (9/25).*

Thanksgiving for birth: *Henrik Landis Michael Benson, grandson of Michael & Laura Ferguson, born 9/12, baptized 9/19.*

Wedding Anniversaries: *Grace and William Palmer (9/20), Ben and Betsy Banasik (9/22).*

Thanksgiving for Sustaining Grace: *Jim Nitzsche, Jeremy LaFore, Aburuyeba Amaso, and Luise Bollmeyer, and Del Duwe.*

Cancer treatment: *Gabby Hartwig continuing treatment for childhood cancer; James Loker, liver cancer.*

Hospice Care: *Betty Eakin, Don Fell's sister.*

Those Who Mourn: *Family of Mary Lee Lueck, mother of Steve Lueck, who received Christian burial on September 11.*

Missionaries: *Jonathan Clausing returning to the mission field in Tanzania.*

Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Sept. 21)

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father 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

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good" (stanzas 1-3)

819

Looking forward to the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

September 26, 2021

Hymns: 819, 635, 574, 652, 689, 692

Proverbs 25:6-14: *Solomon's wise sayings reflect, in concrete ways, what living by faith in the Gospel of Christ looks like. We do not exalt ourselves; we live in humility toward one another; we take up grievances with the person with whom we have a concern; and we guard our tongues from gossip and slander. All this is but a reflection of how God in Christ treats us.*

Ephesians 4:1-6: *To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus means that we walk through our life by faith in Him. Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to "have a walk worthy of the calling" of the Gospel that they have received. Such a "walk" is characterized by humble reliance upon the Gospel by which we are able to bear one another's burdens with all longsuffering. The "unity of the Spirit" is a reference to holding fast to the common confession of Christian doctrine: There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all."*

Luke 14:1-11: *How wonderful it is to see Jesus entering into the homes of those who did not believe in Him! The Pharisees rejected Jesus' mercy for those they deemed unworthy, but that did not prevent Jesus from reaching out to them. In this Gospel, Jesus went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees for dinner on the Sabbath. It appears from the testimony of St. Luke as if nearly everyone was against Him. They watched Him closely to see what He would say or do that they might trap Him in His words or actions. It is worth noting that Jesus does not apologize to them for any way He might have offended them. Instead, He calls them to repentance for their self-righteousness by asking them a question that illuminates the purpose of the Sabbath: to give the rest, peace, and salvation that only God can give. This is why the Old Testament believers were called to "stop working" on the Sabbath, so that God might work in them. So, He asks, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" But they kept silent. Jesus answers His own question by healing the man and setting him free. That is what the Sabbath is all about: God doing good works for our life and salvation! Then Jesus further illustrates His point by asking another question, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath?" But still, they could not answer. It often takes much preaching and prayer to break through the hardened heart of a self-righteous sinner.*