

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
 September 11 through September 18, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Faith in Christ Is Active in Word and Deed—On Wednesday of this week, we celebrate **Holy Cross Day**, one of the oldest minor festivals in the Church Year. It is only through the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and His redeeming work upon the cross that we come to know and believe in God rightly. Our faith in Christ as the Savior who has died for us upon the cross is what animates what we say and do in our lives as Christians. Our faith in Jesus’ undeserved love is active in words and deeds. **Abram Gives Lot the Choice of the Land** because he believes that the Lord promised him the land and the gift of salvation that he might share his possessions with others (7th Commandment). **Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’s House** and calls him to repentance and faith. As a result, Zacchaeus restores what he had stolen from others as a Tax Collector (7th Commandment). When Jesus calls us to **Bless Those Who Curse** us, He is inviting us to live by faith in the Gospel so that we freely forgive our enemies and “explain everything in the kindest way” (8th Commandment). Living by faith in the grace of God toward our enemies is ultimately seen in our Lord as **Jesus Prays for His Enemies**. It is the ultimate fulfillment of the 8th Commandment. This week’s verse, “Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’” reinforces that our faith in Christ is to be expressed in honest words before God and one another.

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: Christ Loves Those Who Considered Him Their Enemy.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 5:37

Let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No.”
 For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Psalm 37 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, heavenly Father, in this world Your faithful ones suffer much evil from those who reject Your Son and despise Your Word. The wicked seem to prosper as the righteous are cast down. Deliver us from envy and bitterness toward the wicked in their prosperity and grant us steadfast faith to commit our ways to You and to rest patiently in Your good and gracious will for our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35
Evening	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 13: The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37	
Monday	Abram Gives Lot the Choice of the Land—Gen. 13:1-12 (13-18)	Philippians 2:1-4
Tuesday	Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’s House—Luke 19:1-10	Ephesians 4:25-32
Wednesday	Holy Cross Day: John 12:20-33	1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Thursday	Bless Those Who Curse—Matthew 5:33-45	Romans 13:8-10
Friday	Jesus Prays for His Enemies—Luke 23:33-43	1 Thessalonians 5:14-24
Saturday	Trinity 14: Proverbs 4:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments— The Seventh and Eighth Commandments

What is the Seventh Commandment? You shall not steal.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.	First Grade +
What is the Eighth Commandment? You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.	Preschool +

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God

so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Second Grade +

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

Prayers on the Seventh Commandment:

Heavenly Father, forgive us our sins of stealing and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Eighth Commandment:

Most merciful God and Father, in the Eighth Commandment You teach us that a person's good name and reputation are gifts of your grace and that you desire them to be defended and protected by what we say. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of lying, gossip, and slander which hurts our neighbor in the eyes of others. Forgive us for all the ways in which we pass judgment against our neighbor when we have not been given the authority to do so. Forgive us for failing to defend our neighbor when his good name and reputation are being attacked by others. By Your words of grace and mercy to us in Jesus, teach us to tell the truth in love, and strengthen us to cover our neighbor's sins with words of forgiveness and compassion, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

Collect for Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14)

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer and collects for the day)

Baptismal Birthdays: Erin Hoffmann (9/11), Joe Schneider, Alex Scheler (9/12), Rev. Brennick Christiansen (9/13), Pete Greschner, Christine Sawatzki, Bob Rothe (9/14), Jeanne Scholz, Janeen Hartwig (9/15), Daniel Haga (9/16), Jacob Rank (9/17).

Wedding Anniversaries: Mark and Cheryl Gretzinger, Jeff and Amanda DiPuma (9/12), Lee and Cathie Weber (9/16), Jason and Cathy Petersen (9/17).

The Ministry: Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss beginning his ministry at CTSFW as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology.

The Sick: Kathy Miller diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; Rev. DuWayne Schneider (friend of the Koplings), Heather Peters, Barbara Wieting, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

Hospice care: Bernice Lemke

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

Hymn of the Week

"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs" (stanzas 1-2)

812

Looking forward to the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 18, 2022

Hymns: 686, TLH 569, 797, 705, 814, 636, 895

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.