

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 18 through September 25, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Covetousness Is to Desire and Insist upon Having Something God Has Not Provided—
How fitting it is that this week’s meditation upon the 9th and 10th Commandments should be the week of the **Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**. Prior to Matthew’s conversion and call to apostleship, he was a covetous tax collector for the Roman government, but in repentant faith he was turned from the worship of earthly wealth and ill-gotten gain to the Lord in whom there is true peace and contentment. **Ahab Covets Naboth’s Vineyard** is a classic narrative where we see the “scheming to get a neighbor’s inheritance or house in a way that only appears right,” but which was absolutely evil. Covetousness was injected into Paradise by the Serpent who enticed Adam and Eve to follow their appetites and desires in the **Fall of Man into Sin**. In contrast to a covetous heart and will which is governed by its passions rather than the Word and our faith in Christ, Jesus calls us to **Confess Christ, Take Up Our Cross and Follow Him**. He alone gives peace and contentment to our restless hearts as the old, covetous, sinful flesh is put to death through daily contrition and repentance and the new man of faith is raised up. In the **Rich Young Ruler** we see that a man who lacks Jesus, the only One who is truly good, is unwilling because of his covetous heart to let go of everything and follow Christ. The rich young ruler went away sad, because he had many possessions that had become his idol. We pray that the Lord would lead us to true repentance for our covetous desires and give us a heart that is content with our Lord and the gifts that He provides.

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’s Grace Is Universal for All Mankind.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 6:33-34

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Psalm 119:33-40 (He section) and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, revive me by Your Word, keep me in the path of truth, and turn my eyes from looking at worthless things. Do not take Your Word out of my mouth but strengthen and preserve me by your mercies and salvation, that I may love Your commandments and keep Your law continually, 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	35	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56
Evening	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 14: The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19	
Monday	Ahab Covets Naboth’s Vineyard—1 Kings 21:1-16	James 4:1-10
Tuesday	The Fall of Man into Sin—Genesis 3:1-8	Romans 7:7-13
Wednesday	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist —Matthew 9:9-13	Ephesians 4:7-16
Thursday	Confess Christ, Take Up Your Cross, Follow Him—Mt. 10:32-39	Hebrews 13:1-6
Friday	The Rich Young Ruler—Mark 10:17-31	Philippians 3:7-12
Saturday	Trinity 15: 1 Kings 17:8-16	Galatians 5:25—6:10

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

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor's house.	Preschool +
What does this mean? 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 +
What is the Tenth Commandment? 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 +

What does this mean?

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

Prayer on the Ninth Commandment

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.

Prayer 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.

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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.

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

Baptismal Birthdays: Matthew Bender, Stan Heine, Kelsey DePue (9/18), Andrew Gehlbach (9/20), Tabitha Daleiden (9/21), Ken Dumke, Randy Kirk, Samantha Bender, Angela Volquardsen, Aubrey Hoffmann (9/22), Lucas Dubnicka, Ashley LaSage, Ethan Krueger (9/24).

Wedding Anniversaries: Ben and Betsy Banasik (9/22).

Thanksgiving: birth of David Elliot Bender, son of Andrew & Jocelyn Bender

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.

Those Who Mourn: family and friends of Bernice Lemke

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

Hymn of the Week

"In Thee Is Gladness" (stanza 1)

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Looking forward to the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 25, 2022

Hymns: 726, 760, 758, 629, 746, 738

I Kings 17:8-16: The Lord provided for the widow of Zarephath. Daily bread that sustains the body is a gift of God's grace to all people. We are to learn through how He provides for us every moment of every day that He will surely provide us with the greater gifts of His salvation in Christ. The Lord not only provided daily bread for this widow and her son, but He also provided her with the one thing needful above all else: the Lord's saving Word.

Galatians 5:25-6:10: St. Paul describes the life of faith in the grace of God in Christ: We seek to restore those who have fallen from the faith; we bear one another's burdens; we live in humility toward one another, considering others as better than ourselves; we support our ministers and those who teach us the life-giving Word of God with in the Church; and we take every opportunity to do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith, because that is what Christ has done for us.

Matthew 6:24-34: In our Baptism we are placed IN CHRIST, so that all that He is and has done for us might be ours and so that we might live confidently and joyfully IN CHRIST. This Sunday's Gospel is a section of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus catechizes us on the First Commandment: You shall have no other gods! According to the First Commandment, we are to depend upon God and trust in Him for everything without doubting. We cannot serve two masters. Worry does not give us the food to eat, the clothes to wear, or the protection we need. If God takes care of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, then God will take care of us. How comforting it is to know and learn to believe that God's care for us is NOT dependent upon our strength of faith. The conclusion of this section invites us to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" and we will be freed from all the anxiety of life. This final word directs us to Jesus. He ushers in God's kingdom. His suffering and death upon the cross for us is "the righteousness of God" that covers all our sin. The more our faith is fixed upon Him and all that He has done for us, the more the idolatry of worry and anxiety of life flees from us. It is in Jesus that we see the perfect man of faith. He fears, loves, and trusts in His Father above all things. Because He did this for us, we are clothed with a more glorious garment than the lilies of the field and we are fed with a food that is more nourishing than anything this creation has to offer. "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things."