

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 25 through October 2, 2022

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Threat of Punishment and the Promise of Grace – The Law threatens punishment for sin; the Gospel promises forgiveness of sins for Jesus’ sake. Faith justifies because faith lays hold of the promise of forgiveness in Christ. Such faith is a miracle of the Holy Spirit through the promise of the Gospel. This week’s meditation focuses upon the Close of the Commandments. The Law always threatens punishment because we are sinners. The threat of punishment is necessary in order that we might see our sin, be brought to repentance, and flee to Christ for forgiveness. The narratives this week, **God’s Law Threatens and Accuses, the Worship of the Golden Calf, and God’s Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers** at Mount Sinai illustrate both the corruption of sin that the Law reveals and the punishment that we rightly deserve. The week’s final reading on the Close of the Commandments teaches us that **Jesus Takes the Place of the Guilty**, suffering all that the Law demands of the sinner, for us and for our salvation. The promise of “every grace and blessing” through obedience to the Law is fulfilled in Jesus who was made to be sin for us and who, by His suffering and death, suffered the wrath of God by being punished in our place. The promise of the Gospel declares to us that all is fulfilled in Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and the Law’s threats with “His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

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: In Our Baptism We Are Placed in Christ.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: James 2:10

Whoever shall keep the whole law,
and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Psalm 14 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, it is foolish to say that there is no God or to deny the corruption of sin that infects all of humanity. Deliver us from stubborn unbelief and impenitence. Save us from the wicked and perverse world in which we live. Be our refuge and salvation and cause the Gospel of Christ’s righteousness to be faithfully proclaimed from the Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73
Evening	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 15: “No One Can Serve Two Masters”—Matt. 6:24-34	
Monday	God’s Law Threatens and Accuses—Ex. 20:1-6, 18-21; 31:18	Hebrews 12:18-24
Tuesday	The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-14	Hebrews 3:1-19
Wednesday	God’s Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Ex. 32:15-35	Romans 3:10-26
Thursday	St. Michael: “Angels See My Father’s Face”—Matthew 18:1-11	Revelation 12:7-12
Friday	Jesus Takes the Place of the Guilty—Luke 23:13-25	Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11
Saturday	Trinity 19: Genesis 28:10-17	Ephesians 4:22-28

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—Review of the Commandments and the Close of the Commandments

What are the Ten Commandments? You shall have no other gods...etc.	Preschool +
What does God say about all these commandments? He says: “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20:5-6]	First Grade +

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments.

Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them.

But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments.

Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

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

Prayers on the Close of the Commandments:

Lord God, heavenly Father, apart from You we have no life or salvation, therefore You are a jealous God, desiring us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. You punish children for the sin they share in and have committed from their fathers, that they might be brought to repentance and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. You show love and mercy to those who love You and keep Your commandments, therefore, grant us true repentance and forgive us every sin against Your holy Law that we might cheerfully love You and gladly do what You command, 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 the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; 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. Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the ministry of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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: Tim Frerking, Richard Gallagher, Sherry Prowatzke (9/25), Travis Dubnicka, August Christopherson, Ben Banasik (9/26), Breanna Hertzberg, Donna Aufdemberge (9/28), Christine Dubnicka, George Kaminski (9/29), Melissa Brendel (9/30), Evan Hertzberg, Jeff Meehan (10/1).

Wedding Anniversaries: Ed and Michelle Ratzlaff (9/28), Pat and Kate Handlos, Kevin and Sherry Larson, John and Pam Lehman (/29), Don and Roseanne Fell (9/30).

The Sick: Rev. Dr. David Scaer, undergoing hip replacement surgery; Carol Bender recovering from hospitalization; Kathy Miller, Rev. DuWayne Schneider, Heather Peters, Barbara Wieting, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

Those Who Mourn: Lemke and Aufdemberge families

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

Hymn of the Week

"I Walk in Danger All the Way" (st. 1, 4-5)

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Looking forward to the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 2, 2022

Hymns: 614 1-4, 885, 614 5-8, 616, 627, 533, 825

Genesis 28:10-17: In Jacob's dream at Bethel, the Lord came to him and reaffirmed the promise of salvation through the coming Messiah: "in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." This is why Jacob confessed, "Surely the Lord is in this place...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

Wherever the saving Word of the Gospel is proclaimed, THERE is the very presence of the Lord Himself for the salvation of His people. The Lord's Word is our comfort too: "I am the Lord God of Abraham...I am with you and will keep you wherever you go..."

Ephesians 4:22-28: The Holy Spirit renews our faith and life in Christ through His Word of grace and mercy in Jesus.

Matthew 9:1-8: A paralyzed man is the perfect image of humanity who cannot save itself from the bondage and paralysis of sin. The paralytic had to be brought to Jesus. We have to be brought to Jesus. His greatest problem was not physical paralysis, but the problem of sin which was the cause of all his maladies. It is the same for us. Jesus' word addressed the real problem: "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." It is this word that the self-righteous scribes objected to. They accused Jesus of blasphemy: using the power of God that He had no right to use. They were wrong. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins because He came into the world to pay the ultimate price for sin. The scribes had no power to make a man walk or to take away a man's sin. It was impossible for them. It is impossible for us. But Jesus had the power to do both. To teach them that He had the power to forgive sins, He made the man to arise and walk. What none of us could do, Jesus did. He has now given the power to forgive sins to His Church, so that paralyzed and broken sinners might be set free and reconciled to God. "When the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men." Thanks be to God that Jesus power and authority to forgive sins is found in the Church where His Gospel is preached, and His sacraments are administered. In Christ's absolution, sinners are set free from bondage and reconciled to God.