

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Tenth Sunday after Trinity
August 13 through August 20, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Final Challenges to Jesus’ Ministry and the Signs of the End — Should we honor and obey the government, or should we honor and obey Christ? The answer is YES to both! When Jesus says, **Render to Caesar the Things that Are Caesar’s** and to God the things that are God’s, He teaches us the sublime doctrine of how God rules and governs in two kingdoms. In the secular kingdom, represented by Caesar, God rules through the force of Law to protect the innocent, maintain order in society, and to punish law-breakers. God stands behind the authority of all civil rulers and they are to be honored because of this, but their authority stops at what God’s Word allows. Civil authorities have no right to bind our conscience or to demand something of us that is against God’s Word and our faith in Christ. In the spiritual kingdom, God governs the heart by faith through the ministry of the Lord’s Word and Sacraments. Here the Gospel reigns supreme and the heart is not governed by the coercion of the Law, but by faith in Christ created by the Gospel. In **Questions About the Resurrection**, the Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection or in life after death, challenge Jesus with a snarky question about a woman who had multiple husbands saying, “in the resurrection whose wife will she be?” Here Jesus reprimands them by clarifying that marriage does not exist in the resurrection as we know it today, but rather we will all worship the Lord in the life to come as the angels of heaven do so now. In the **Greatest Commandment**, Jesus teaches us that the foundation of the Ten Commandments rests upon love for God above all things and love for the neighbor as oneself. When Jesus speaks **Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees**, He upbraids them for what is the greatest sin of all, namely, to reject the mercy of God in the Gospel of Christ in the self-righteousness of impenitence. In **Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End**, He weeps over the impenitence of Jerusalem for rejecting Him and He foretells both the destruction of the Temple as God’s judgment for unbelief and the rise of false prophets and lawlessness as His Second Coming approaches. “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

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: Do Not Spurn the Lord’s Call to Repentance!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:3b

No one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed,
and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 55 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, teach us never to base our faith or the confidence of salvation upon ourselves or others, but to cling to You alone and to cast every burden on You, knowing that You alone have redeemed us; 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	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85	88
Evening	72	74	77	79	81	83	86	87

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Trinity 10: Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem—Luke 19:41-48	
Monday	Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar’s—Matt. 22:15-22	Isaiah 56:1-8
Tuesday	Questions About the Resurrection—Matthew 22:23-33 St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord: Luke 1:46-55	Isaiah 57:15-21
Wednesday	The Greatest Commandment—Matthew 22:34-46	Isaiah 58:6-14
Thursday	Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees—Matthew 23:1-36	Isaiah 59:1-8
Friday	Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End—Matthew 23:37—24:14	Isaiah 59:9-21
Saturday	The Great Tribulation—Matthew 24:15-31	Isaiah 60:1-7, 19-22

The Catechism: The Creed— The Third Article

<p><i>What is the Third Article of the Creed?</i> I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.</p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	First Grade +
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Third Article:

O Holy Spirit, we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. Call us to faith in Jesus by the Gospel, enlighten us every day with Your gifts of baptism, absolution, and the Lord’s Supper; and sanctify and keep us and the whole Christian Church on earth with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Forgive us our sins every day and give us the blessed hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

O God, You declare Your almighty power above all in showing mercy and pity. Mercifully grant us such a measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your gracious promises and be made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; 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. Mary, Mother of Our Lord (8/15)

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only Son. Grant that we, who are redeemed by His blood, may share with her in the glory of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, 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)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Nathan Seierstad (8/13), Mark Schneider (8/14), Hezekiah Christiansen (8/15), Jan Finke (8/16), Sierra Fredrich (8/17), Brenda Greschner (8/18).

Wedding Anniversaries: Steve and Joanne LaSage (8/13), Travis and Lindsey Dubnicka (8/14), Jeff and Christine Dubnicka, Bob and Cheryl Piper (8/15), Bob and Doreen Corso (8/16).

The Sick: Konner and Travis, friends of Sarah May, recovering from injuries sustained in a serious motorcycle accident; Cindy Ruhnau recuperating from right hip replacement; Piera Siegmann and Rev. Austin Meier burdened by mental health affliction; Gabby Hartwig recovering from cancer surgery, David Berger who continues in treatment; Andy Helwig recovering after liver transplant; Drew Franklin recovering from Lyme disease.

Those in Cancer Treatment: Rev. Dr. John Wille, Kathleen Hetzel, Dennis Michaelis, Peyton Locklair, Kathy Miller, and Donna Lovas’s niece Beth.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Looking forward to the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 20, 2023

Hymns: 570, 559, 611, 419, 631, 548

Genesis 4:1-15: Cain’s offering was rejected because the faith of his heart was wrong. He trusted in himself and believed the Lord owed him because of his goodness. Abel’s offering was accepted because the faith of his heart was in the mercy of God. Both offerings were outwardly “the best they had” but one was given with the idolatrous faith of works righteousness and the other as a confession of faith in God’s grace. The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector is anticipated by the account of Cain and Abel.

Ephesians 2:1-10: This classic passage on salvation by grace alone teaches that man is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins apart from the operation of the Holy Spirit and that even faith in Christ itself is a gift of God’s grace. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” It is the grace of God that saves us. It is the grace of God that creates faith to trust in Christ. And it is the grace of God that fashions us into Christ’s disciples and enables us to do good works for our neighbor. All depends upon the grace of God in Christ.

Luke 18:9-14: The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector contrasts faith in works with penitent faith in God’s grace.