

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity  
August 27 through September 3, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week —Christ Is Fulfillment**—This week begins another academic year in which we pray through the Small Catechism sequentially, beginning with the Ten Commandments and concluding the last eleven weeks of school with the Table of Duties (descriptions of what faith in Christ looks like in our several stations and callings in life). The year begins with Bible stories that move from the giving of the Law upon Mount Sinai to the Monarchy of David. This year will also include eight weeks of “Catechism Stories” highlighting the Sacraments and the annual “Church Year Stories” clustered around Christmas, Passion, Easter, and Pentecost. When we speak of Christ as the One who fulfills the Law, we most often think only of the moral Law given in the Ten Commandments. But the Law of Moses also includes all of the ceremonial Law in the Old Testament Divine liturgy. The year begins with a description of that liturgy in the Ark of the Covenant, the priestly garments, the ransom money, and the Sabbath law. As you read those stories, ask yourself the question, “How is this fulfilled in Christ?” or “How does the description of this ceremony, vestment, or Tabernacle appointment point to the person and work of Jesus?” Answering these questions is what gives this portion of the Old Testament relevance for us today as it deepens our understanding of Jesus’ work and the gifts that flow to us from Him in the New Testament Sacraments. In this sense, the Old Testament ceremonial Law was both provisional and catechetical as it taught Old Testament believers their need for Christ. Along with these readings from the Old Testament we will take up readings from the book of Hebrews. This book was written to Hebrew Christians to catechize them in how the Old Testament Law with all of its sacrifices and rites was fulfilled in Jesus’ sacrifice upon the cross. He became for us the greatest High Priest and the greatest sacrifice for sin. He is the Tabernacle of God on earth, and in Him we receive true Sabbath rest.

## 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: He Has Done All Things Well!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: Psalm 90:1-2

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

#### Psalm 146 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

*Prayer on the Psalm:* O Lord Jesus, I will praise You as long as I live, for You made the heavens and the earth, You keep Your promises, You have established justice in the cross, and have restored us through Your redeeming work. Grant us the happiness, contentment, and wellbeing that comes through faith in You alone, 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	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24
Evening	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Jesus Heals the Deaf Mute—Mark 7:31-37</b>	
Monday	Moses Receives the Law upon Tablets of Stone—Exodus 24:1-18	Hebrews 1:1-14
Tuesday	The Ark of the Covenant—Exodus 25:1-22 <b>Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist—Mark 6:14-29</b>	Hebrews 2:1-9
Wednesday	The Priestly Garments—Exodus 28:1-43	Hebrews 2:10-18
Thursday	The Ransom Money—Exodus 30:11-16	Hebrews 3:1-6
Friday	The Sabbath Law—Exodus 31:12-18	Hebrews 3:7-19
Saturday	Israel Returns the Captives—2 Chron. 28:8-15	Galatians 3:15-22

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The First and Second Commandments

What is the First Commandment?

**You shall have no other gods.**

Preschool +

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.	First Grade +
What is the Second Commandment? <b>You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.	Second Grade +

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

**Prayers on the First Commandment**

*O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are the only true and living God. Forgive us our sins against the First Commandment. Strengthen us by Your grace to fear, love, and trust in You above all things; in Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

**Prayers on the Second Commandment**

*Blessed Lord, we are not to misuse Your holy name by cursing, swearing, using satanic arts, lying, or deceiving others. Forgive us our sins against the Second Commandment. Teach us by Your Word and Spirit to call upon You in every trouble, to pray, praise, and give thanks to You at all times; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

*Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (8/29)**

*Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; through the same 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:** June Brueck (8/27), Mike Ferguson (8/28), Charlie Dhein (8/29), Noah DePue (9/1), Liam Daleiden (9/2).

**Birth/Baptism:** Charles Sebastian Hartwig, son of Chuck and Janeen Hartwig.

**Blessing of Marriage:** Ashley and Michael Neumann on Saturday, August 26.

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Rev. Gary and Susan Gehlbach, Kevin and Rachel Ruehle (8/29).

**Thanksgiving for successful recovery:** Peyton Locklair from cancer treatment.

**The Sick:** Amy Bruss (daughter-in-law of Jon & Marty Bruss) as she continues to struggle with stroke related limited mobility; Konner and Travis, friends of Sarah May, hospitalized with serious injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident; Kathy May, Cindy Ruhau, and Gabby Hartwig recovering from surgery; Piera Siegmann burdened by mental health affliction; David Berger who continues in treatment; Andy Helwig recovering after liver transplant; Drew Franklin recovering from Lyme disease.

**Those in Cancer Treatment:** Michael (friend of Anna & David Steinhilb) diagnosed with lung cancer; Rev. Dr. John Wille, Kathleen Hetzel, Dennis Michaelis, Kathy Miller, and Donna Lovas's niece Beth.

**Those who mourn:** The family of Karen Brown (sister of Frank Kopting) who mourn her death.

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"With the Lord Begin Your Task" (stanzas 1-2)"**

**869**

**Looking forward to the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**September 3, 2023**

**Hymns: 649, 683, 572, 845, 852, 869**

**2 Chronicles 28:8-15:** Israel shows mercy to her enemies by returning those who had been captured in battle.

**Galatians 3:15-22:** The spiritual function of the Law is to prepare for Christ by creating a need for Him, so that by faith in Christ we might be saved. The Seed of Abraham is Christ who delivers salvation to us by the promise of the Gospel.

**Luke 10:23-37:** The Parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates what it is to love God with all one's heart and to love the neighbor as oneself. The self-righteousness of the priest and the Levite who believed they had kept the Law caused them to be curved in upon themselves and unconcerned about the wounded man in need. Though they were Jews and had the Law, they did not believe or practice what the Law demanded. The Samaritan who was viewed as the enemy of the Jew is the one who demonstrates what true love is. He cares not for himself, but spares no time, effort, or expense to help the wounded man, even though the wounded Jew would have considered him his enemy. What a wonderful illustration of what Jesus has done for us. He fulfills the Law by loving us more than He loved Himself. Though we rebelled against God and were left for dead on the side of the road, Jesus came to our rescue, bandaged our wounds, brought us to the inn of the Church, and paid all the expenses necessary to bring us back to health. In Jesus we see what love really is as described by God's Law.