

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity  
September 3 through September 10, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Labor Day and the Law** — Christians have a unique perspective on work. We work, not to serve ourselves, but to serve our neighbor in love. A man works for his wife and children. An employer serves his employer and the patrons of his business. A business owner employs many workers to help provide them with a livelihood for their families and to serve the community. This is patterned after our faith in Jesus' work for us. It is this perspective that gives us true and abiding contentment with our lives, not in serving ourselves but in working for others. Christians are not against good works. We are in favor of good works, and we believe in them not for our salvation but for the benefit of our neighbor. As we continue to meditate upon the Ten Commandments, this perspective on work is highlighted in the positive descriptions to the Catechism's explanations. In short, these descriptions describe what the work of love looks like. In contrast to this, the Bible Narratives for the week recount how the Israelite's unfaithfulness at Mount Sinai in the worship of the Golden Calf included a thoroughly self-centered disposition toward others. For their salvation, the Lord renewed His covenant with them and erected the Tabernacle as the place of His saving presence so that they could be refreshed and renewed in God's work for them.

## 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 Who Showed Us Mercy Is Our Neighbor Sent from Heaven.

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

#### Verse: Romans 1:16a

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,  
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

#### Psalm 32 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132
Evening	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37</b>	
Monday	<b>Labor Day:</b> Warning Against Idleness—2 Thessalonians 3:1-15	Ephesians 6:5-9
Tuesday	The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-14	Hebrews 4:1-10
Wednesday	God's Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Exodus 32:15-35	Hebrews 4:11-16
Thursday	Lord Renews His Covenant with Israel—Ex. 33:1-3 (4-5); 34:1-10, 27-35	Hebrews 5:1-11
Friday	Moses Sets Up the Tabernacle—Exodus 40:1-3, 16-38	Hebrews 5:12-14
Saturday	The Security of Wisdom—Proverbs 4:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Third and Fourth Commandments

What is the Third Commandment? <b>Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.	First Grade +
What is the Fourth Commandment? <b>Honor your father and your mother.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.	First Grade +

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

**Prayers on the Third Commandment:**

Heavenly Father, we are to make every day holy by hearing, studying, and meditating upon Your Word. Forgive us our sins against the Third Commandment. Strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit so that we do not despise preaching and Your Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it throughout our lifetime, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Heavenly Father, in the Third Commandment You teach us that Your Word makes our lives and the day of worship holy. Your Word creates repentance and faith in Christ in our hearts. Your Word gives us true help, comfort, peace, and strength. Your Word brings Jesus to us with all the blessings of His salvation. Thank You for the rest and peace Your Word gives. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for despising preaching and Your Word. Grant us to hold Your Word sacred and to gladly hear and learn it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers on the Fourth Commandment:**

Heavenly Father forgive us for not honoring our parents. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them, 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.

**In Our Prayers this Week** (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Sue Kaminski, Dan Laubenstein (4/9), Faith Daleiden (9/6).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Brian and Melissa Brendel (9/4), Mark and Melody Ruhbusch (9/6).

**Thanksgiving for successful recovery:** Peyton Locklair and Donna Lovas's niece Beth from cancer treatment.

**The Sick:** Tom Zahn, friend of Jon Bruss, suffering from extremely painful back and spine issues; 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; Marcy Gall in rehab following recent hospitalization; Kathy May, follow-up treatment from cancer surgery; Cindy Ruhnau, and Gabby Hartwig recovering from surgery; David Berger who continues in treatment.

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

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

**Hymn of the Week**

**"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (stanzas 1-3)**

**655**

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

**September 10, 2023**

**Hymns: 689, 849, 635, 421, 693, 610**

**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.