

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity  
September 10 through September 17, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Sacred Liturgy of the Old Testament Church** — Many Christians view the Old Testament Liturgy of the Tabernacle as both works righteous and unnecessary. Some consider the material in Leviticus to be boring. Unfortunately, all of these views are misguided and fail to see how this liturgy was given by God and intended to catechize the congregation of Israel for the coming of Christ. The **Burnt Offering** showed the priest imputing the sin of the congregation to the sacrifice by laying his hand upon the head of the animal. In the same way, the sin of the world was imputed to Jesus. The **Burnt Offering** was the all-encompassing sacrifice that gave the congregation access to the presence of the Lord. In Christ's sacrifice we all have access to God. The **Sin Offering** was made for specific sins, some of which were known, some of which were unknown. In any case, Christ's offering upon the cross covers all the specific sins we have committed, even those we are unaware. The **Restitution Offering** taught that sin not only needed to be atoned for, but also that the devastation caused by sin needed to be made right. Jesus came to pay for sin and to restore that which had been ruined by sin. The **Ministry of the Priests Begins** points to the ultimate priestly ministry of Jesus. He is sanctified for His service by the shedding of His own blood on our behalf and by virtue of His atoning sacrifice upon the cross, He has the authority to intercede on our behalf before the throne of grace as the Levitical priests did for the congregation of Israel. The **Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu** teaches us how seriously the Lord takes His divine service. Christ's Word is to be preached according to the Holy Scriptures and His Sacraments are to be administered faithfully according to Christ's institution. Anything less, profanes the Lord's divine service even today as it did in the days of Nadab and Abihu. Every sacrifice, every offering, and every ceremonial action of the Old Testament Church finds its fulfillment in Christ and His sacrifice upon the cross. How fitting then it is that **Holy Cross Day** should be celebrated this week in which so many of the Old Testament prophetic allusions to Christ's sacrifice are heard.

## 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: Give Thanks to the Lord, His Mercy Endures Forever!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: Mark 10:7b, 8, 9

“A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

Psalm 119:9-16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, grant us a deep and abiding love for Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144	147	148	1, 2
Evening	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145	146	149, 150	3

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19	
Monday	The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1-17	Hebrews 6:1-12
Tuesday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	Hebrews 6:13-20
Wednesday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	Hebrews 7:1-10
Thursday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24 <b>Holy Cross Day</b> —1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Hebrews 7:11-19
Friday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	Hebrews 7:20-28
Saturday	The Widow of Zarephath—1 Kings 17:8-16	Gal. 5:25—6:10

### The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Fifth and Sixth Commandments

What is the Fifth Commandment? <b>You shall not murder.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.	First Grade +

What is the Sixth Commandment? <b>You shall not commit adultery.</b>	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.	Second Grade +

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

**Prayers on the Fifth Commandment:**

Heavenly Father, forgive us our sins against the Fifth Commandment. Strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers on the Sixth Commandment:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Sixth Commandment You teach us that marriage is Your gift to us, where a man and a woman are brought together in love to become one flesh and, when it is Your will, for receiving the gift of children. Thank You for this wonderful gift to us. Forgive us for every sin against marriage and the Sixth Commandment. Uphold all husbands and wives in their marriages. Give them faithfulness to Your Word. Teach them to live according to Your will. Strengthen them to live in Your love for each other; and enable them to live sexually pure and decent lives in everything that they say and do as husbands and wives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14)**

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Scott Perry (9/10), Erin Webster (9/11), Joe Schneider, Alex Scheler (9/12), Rev. Brennick Christiansen (9/13), Pete Greschner, Christine Sawatzki, Bob Rothe (9/14), Jeanne Scholz, Janeen Hartwig (9/15), Daniel Haga (9/16).

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Andrew and Erin Webster (9/10), Mark and Cheryl Gretzinger, Jeff and Amanda DiPuma (9/12), Lee and Cathie Weber (9/16).

**The Sick:** Tom Zahn, painful back and spine issues; Amy Bruss struggling with stroke related mobility issues; Konner and Travis, recovering from serious injuries from a motorcycle accident; Kathy May in follow-up treatment from cancer surgery.

**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**

**"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" (stanzas 1-3)**

**740**

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

**September 17, 2023**

**Hymns: 726, 758, 750, 621, 760, 725**

**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. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, 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. "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things."