

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 24 through October 1, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Glory of the Lord’s Saving Presence — At the heart of God’s glory throughout the Scriptures is His saving grace. In a **Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night** the Lord manifested Himself to the Children of Israel and led them through the wilderness. The glory cloud was the place of His saving presence. His glory was above the Mercy seat of the Tabernacle where the blood of atonement was sprinkled. At the Tabernacle, the Lord distributed His forgiveness and led them throughout their pilgrimage. After having received the entirety of God’s Law, **Israel Departs from Sinai**. They were to walk by faith as the Lord led them. Throughout their pilgrimage we see many times of fear, doubt, grumbling, and mistrust of the Lord’s goodness. Yet the glory of His grace did not depart from them. When the **People of Israel Complain against the Lord**, the **Lord Feeds His Grumbling People with Quail**. He did not forsake His flock, even though they had so often doubted the provisions of His grace. Even **Aaron and Miriam Speak against Moses**, but the Lord calls them to repentance and in love for His people reaffirms Moses as the foundational prophet of His glory that they might know the certainty of His care for them. The glory of God is not merely His power; it is, rather, most especially His grace and mercy for sinners. It is this glory of God that we see lifted up in Jesus upon the altar of the cross. Led by Him and the glory of His love, we are kept safe throughout our earthly pilgrimage.

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: God Has Visited His People to Raise the Dead!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 12:15

Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Psalms 30 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, my faithful God and Savior Jesus Christ, You have never failed to defend, help, and rescue me from my enemies and even the failings of my own making. Work in me daily contrition and repentance, that fleeing from self-reliance I might depend upon You alone for deliverance and rejoice daily in the joy of Your salvation; 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	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Widow of Nain’s Son Is Raised—Luke 7:11-17	
Monday	A Pillar of Cloud by Day and a Pillar of Fire by Night—Num. 9:15-23	Hebrews 10:11-18
Tuesday	Israel Departs from Sinai—Numbers 10:11-14a, 29-36	Hebrews 10:19-25
Wednesday	The People of Israel Complain Against the Lord—Numbers 11:1-17	Hebrews 10:26-31
Thursday	The Lord Feeds His Grumbling People with Quail—Numbers 11:18-35	Hebrews 10:32-39
Friday	Aaron and Miriam Speak Against Moses—Numbers 12:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-7
	St. Michael and All Angels—Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3	
Saturday	The Wisdom of Solomon—Proverbs 25:6-14	Ephesians 4:1-6

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

What is the Ninth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.	Preschool +
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right but help and be of service to him in keeping it.	Second Grade +
What is the Tenth Commandment? You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Preschool +

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Second Grade +

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

Prayer on the Ninth Commandment

Gracious Lord, forgive us for coveting the things You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer on the Tenth Commandment

Gracious Lord forgive us for coveting a spouse, worker, or relationship with someone that You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; 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 (Sept. 29)

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.

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

Baptismal Anniversaries: Lucas Dubnicka, Ashley Neumann, Ethan Krueger (9/24), 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).

Birth: Charlotte Uttenreither, daughter of David and Ravyn Uttenreither.

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

The Sick: Jennifer Scheler having surgery this week; Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe and Shirley Weber recovering from a fall; 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, and Gabby Hartwig.

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

Hymn of the Week

"Evening and Morning" (stanza 1)

726

Looking forward to the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

October 1, 2023

Hymns: 623, 557, 622, 935, 706, 652

Proverbs 25:6-14: Solomon's wise sayings reflect, in concrete ways, what living by faith in the Gospel of Christ looks like. We do not exalt ourselves; we live in humility toward one another; we take up grievances with the person with whom we have a concern; and we guard our tongues from gossip and slander. All this is but a reflection of how God in Christ treats us.

Ephesians 4:1-6: To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus means that we walk through our life by faith in Him. Paul exhorts the Ephesian Christians to "have a walk worthy of the calling" of the Gospel that they have received. Such a "walk" is characterized by humble reliance upon the Gospel by which we are able to bear one another's burdens with all longsuffering. The "unity of the Spirit" is a reference to holding fast to the common confession of Christian doctrine: There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all."

Luke 14:1-11: How wonderful it is to see Jesus entering into the homes of those who did not believe in Him! The Pharisees rejected Jesus' mercy for those they deemed unworthy, but that did not prevent Jesus from reaching out to them. In this Gospel, Jesus went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees for dinner on the Sabbath. It appears from the testimony of St. Luke as if nearly everyone was against Him. They watched Him closely to see what He would say or do that they might trap Him in His words or actions. It is worth noting that Jesus does not apologize to them for any way He might have offended them. Instead, He calls them to repentance for their self-righteousness by asking them a question that illuminates the purpose of the Sabbath: to give the rest, peace, and salvation that only God can give. This is why the Old Testament believers were called to "stop working" on the Sabbath, so that God might work in them. So, He asks, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" But they kept silent. Jesus answers His own question by healing the man and setting him free. That is what the Sabbath is all about: God doing good works for our life and salvation! Then Jesus further illustrates His point by asking another question, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath?" But still, they could not answer. It often takes much preaching and prayer to break through the hardened heart of a self-righteous sinner.