

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
October 1 through October 8, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Holding Forth the Word of Life — “Give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching” (1 Timothy 4:13). “I am often aware of temptation, and even today I cannot guard and cross myself against it too carefully. I confess this freely as an example to anyone; for here am I, an old Doctor of Theology and a preacher, and certainly as competent in Scripture as such smart alecks. At least I ought to be. Yet even I must become a child; and early each day I recite aloud to myself the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and whatever lovely psalms and verses I may choose, just as we teach and train children to do. Besides, I must deal with Scripture and fight with the devil every day. I dare not say in my heart, ‘The Lord’s Prayer is worn out; you know the Ten Commandments; you can recite the Creed.’ I study them daily and remain a pupil of the Catechism. I feel, too, that this helps me a lot, and I am convinced by experience that God’s Word can never be entirely mastered, but that Psalm 147 speaks truly, ‘His understanding is beyond measure.’” —Martin Luther

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: The Lord Calls Hardened Sinners to Repentance!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 2 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, we give thanks to You that You laugh at Your enemies and have promised to judge all those who persecute Your Son and His Church. Forgive us for doubting Your gracious care of the Church. Teach us to believe that, through the Church’s suffering for Jesus’ sake, we bear witness to Him. Give us confident faith to laugh at the enemies of the Gospel and to entrust the Church’s preservation to Your sure and certain promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Man with Dropsy Is Healed on the Sabbath—Luke 14:1-11	
Monday	Spies Are Sent into Canaan—Numbers 13:1-3 (4-16) 17-33	Hebrews 11:8-16
Tuesday	Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan; Moses Intercedes—Numbers 14:1-24	Hebrews 11:17-29
Wednesday	The Rebels Are Sentenced to Death—Numbers 14:26-45	Hebrews 11:30-40
Thursday	Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron—Numbers 16:1-19a	Hebrews 12:1-11
Friday	The Lord Confirms That Moses Is His Prophet—Numbers 16:19b-40	Hebrews 12:12-24
Saturday	The Essence of the Law—Deuteronomy 10:12-21	1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Catechism: The Ten Commandments—Review of the Commandments and the Close of the Commandments

What are the Ten Commandments? You shall have no other gods...etc.	Preschool +
What does God say about all these commandments? He says: “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20:5-6]	First Grade +

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.</p>	<p>Preschool +</p>
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Prayers: Catechism Prayers, Collect for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Prayers on the Close of the Commandments:

Lord God, heavenly Father, apart from You we have no life or salvation, therefore You are a jealous God, desiring us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. You punish children for the sin they share in and have committed from their fathers, that they might be brought to repentance and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. You show love and mercy to those who love You and keep Your commandments, therefore, grant us true repentance and forgive us every sin against Your holy Law that we might cheerfully love You and gladly do what You command, 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 the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; 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: Doreen Corso (10/2), Pat Rothe, Benjamin Volquardsen, John Franklin (10/3), Autumn Rank, Easton, Elijah and Esmæ Lenling (10/4), Debra Christopherson, Philip Gehlbach (10/7).

Wedding Anniversaries: Dave and Anna Steinhilb (10/4), Kent and Christine Franklin (10/5), Jim and Faith Daleiden (10/6).

Those Who Serve in the Military: Jessica Franklin (Air Force); John Franklin (Minnesota National Guard); Evon Ingraham (Army Reserves); Morgan Thoni (Navy); David Uttenreither (Army).

Adjustment to Life Changes: Caleb and Nadene (Duessler) Lassiter – newly married, stationed in Korea (Army); Zack Duessler – Air Force Academy

The Sick: Debbie Christopherson having rotator cuff surgery on Wed (10/4); Jennifer Scheler recuperating from surgery; 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 following 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

"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" (stanzas 1 and 4)

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Looking forward to the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 8, 2023

Hymns: 797, 694, 745, 852, 564, 794

Deuteronomy 10:12-21: Moses teaches the children of Israel that the essence of the Law is fulfilled in love. This love for God above all else always results in a compassion and care for others ahead of oneself. As the Lord rescued, saved, and showed mercy to the Israelites in their redemption from slavery of Egypt, so they were to show the Lord's love and mercy to the stranger in the land.

I Corinthians 1:1-9: Paul's greeting of the congregation at Corinth encourages them to rely upon the grace of God which shall provide for all their needs as a congregation. He confirms us in the faith, and He is faithful to us in the call of the Gospel that has brought us into fellowship with Christ, our Lord.

Matthew 22:34-46: Jesus was confronted by many who did not believe in Him. In this Gospel the Pharisees, who had heard He had silenced the Sadducees, took their turn to challenge Jesus about the Old Testament teaching on the Law. They asked Him, "What is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus answers reveals that, according to the Old Testament, love for God above all things is the greatest commandment and that love for the neighbor as oneself follows love for God. The Pharisees knew that Jesus answered correctly, but for them following God's law was about manipulating God into doing for them what they desired, rather than understanding that the law calls for a love for God and for the neighbor that we cannot fulfill. The Old Testament law and prophets hang on these two commandments because Jesus, the Son of God, and the Son of David, is the fulfillment of the law of love in his sacrifice for us upon the cross. His love for God and the neighbor does not move Him to look out for Himself but to serve us. By His service He shows Himself to be the greater Son of David and the promised Messiah. Because of Jesus' love for the Father and for us, the Father will place all enemies under Jesus' feet, and He will sit forever at the Father's right hand. For the Pharisees, the Law of God was about achieving what they wanted. For Jesus', God's Law was fulfilled in His self-denial for us.